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WH SMITH
BICENTENARY
16-page
special report

Progressive Democrats set resignation timetable for embattled Irish prime minister

Haughey ready to quit after coalition threat

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey is expected to resign as Irish prime minister next week after his junior coalition partners threatened to bring down the government if he remained in its head.

Mr Haughey was said to have bowed to the inevitable last night after renewed allegations about his part in a phone-tapping scandal a decade ago proved to be one scapegoat for his troubled premiership. He is expected to quit after the budget next Wednesday.

The resignation timetable is believed to have been worked out during a day of negotiations between leaders of Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats, the six-strong party that has kept Mr Haughey's party in power since 1989. The PDs later issued a statement saying they would withdraw their support unless Fianna Fail took "the necessary step to restore the authority and effectiveness of the government in the immediate aftermath of budget day".

The alternative was an unwanted general election, two years early. "If the necessary

step isn't taken, then that's it," one Progressive Democrat source said. "We have been in a number of similar occasions like this in the past and we haven't been found wanting yet."

While the government press secretary did not confirm Mr Haughey's intention to quit, other senior sources within Fianna Fail said he would announce his resignation at a meeting of the parliamentary party next Thursday. That meeting is likely to take the first steps towards choosing a new party leader, and Mr Haughey will remain prime minister until a successor is chosen. He is expected to go within a week of the budget.

Mr Haughey, who has led Fianna Fail for 11 years and been Taoiseach since 1987, was said to be determined that his continued leadership should not cause an election. He had hoped to continue in office until the party conference in March and to visit Canada before resigning. But his ministers were said to have told him this would not satisfy the PDs.

Mr Haughey had been called Houdini for his ability to survive even the most serious threats to his position, and only last November he survived a move within Fianna Fail to oust him. But what will almost certainly prove the final blow was dealt on Tuesday when Sean Doherty, a former justice minister in Mr Haughey's 1982-83 administration, claimed for the first time that the Taoiseach had known in detail about an illegal phone-tapping scheme.

Mr Doherty had arranged the bugging of two journalists' telephones in an attempt to track down cabinet leaks in 1982 and, until Tuesday, he took all the blame for the affair, resigning the party whip. But this week he claimed he had personally handed Mr Haughey the transcripts of the reporters'

The challengers, page 2
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Charles Haughey: resolved to relinquish leadership rather than force a general election two years early

De Lorean suit breaks cabinet secrecy

The government is overriding its 30-year rule in pursuit of damages, Philip Robinson reports

CABINET papers of the past decade relating to discussions on the De Lorean car plant have been released to Arthur Andersen, the accountants, who with a small band of colleagues walked out of Fianna Fail in the early 1980s. The new party was supposed to break the mould in Irish politics but it has only six seats in the Dail, having performed particularly badly at the last general election in 1987.

Party loyalists have never concealed their distaste for Des O'Malley, the Progressive Democrat leader, who with a small band of colleagues walked out of Fianna Fail in the early 1980s. The new party was supposed to break the mould in Irish politics but it has only six seats in the Dail, having performed particularly badly at the last general election in 1987.

Some political observers believe they could face electoral oblivion if they are widely perceived as being responsible for an undignified end to Mr Haughey's career.

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Bush is to offer cuts in multiple warhead arms

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Bush is to propose another dramatic reduction in strategic missiles next week, aiming his latest arms control initiative at land-based systems with multiple warheads. The proposals will be made during his State of the Union speech to Congress next Tuesday.

Any suggestion from Mr Bush, however, that submarine-launched missiles should have fewer warheads could force the Britain to review its plans to arm each Trident missile with up to eight warheads.

The latest nuclear arms cutting package, which some experts predict could include another 20 per cent reduction in strategic weapons, will be discussed with Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, when he visits New York for his first summit meeting with Mr Bush at the end of next week.

Last month's US report, prepared by the joint strategic target planning staff advisory group for General Lee Butler, commander-in-chief of US strategic forces and director of nuclear targeting, suggested that submarine-launched ballistic missiles should carry no more than six warheads.

The safety of former Soviet nuclear weapons has become a matter of international concern following the break-up of the Soviet Union, despite firm agreements between the four "nuclear" members of the 11-republic Commonwealth on a single strategic command and control system for

unlikely to affect Britain's plans to purchase Trident D5 missiles from the US. An arsenal of 5,000 warheads would still be more than the total number of warheads held by Britain, France and China put together.

Washington: James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said the US would provide Air Force planes to fly 54 shipments of emergency medicine and food to the former Soviet republics. He said the first C5 transports would leave Frankfurt on February 10. (AP)

Sevastopol siege, page 9
Anatole Kaletsky, page 14

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Opera singer gives lessons to Welsh rugby fans

By TIM JONES

the team have declined and the dismal results appear to have affected the vocal cords of the supporters. To combat this mass laryngitis, the Welsh Rugby Union has called upon Beverley Humphreys, a professional opera singer, to raise the standard of the singing. Before the next game at the stadium against France tomorrow week, Ms Humphreys, a soprano, will stand in the middle of the pitch to lead the fans in the old war cry.

Ms Humphreys said: "We hope everyone will join in for the anthem, though we might get out of beat. Rugby and music are very important to the people of Wales and I hope my contribution will help the team to victory."

performing on a grander stage to an audience which is not expected to sing for its supper. One problem is that with the language in decline, fewer people know the words. Even Tony Copsey, the Welsh lock who has "Made in England" tattooed on his buttock, had to learn the words phonetically. Well, he was born in Essex.

Ms Humphreys said: "We hope everyone will join in for the anthem, though we might get out of beat. Rugby and music are very important to the people of Wales and I hope my contribution will help the team to victory."

Since then, the fortunes of



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Humphreys: more used to a grander stage

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Haughey's mantle could pass to the unwilling or unready

BERTIE Ahern, finance minister, has had a glittering career and may well, albeit unwillingly, accept the leadership of his party this year.

Mr Ahern, aged 40, from a working class Dublin background, has already held two big cabinet posts, labour and finance, but has consistently said that he does not wish to take the top job for some years yet. He is an accountant and industrial relations expert who enjoys great popularity with the all important grassroots of Fianna Fáil, among whom his personable and self-evident style has made him many friends.

He was first elected to the Dáil in 1977 and was in the whip's office before becoming party spokesman on youth and then Chief Whip. He took the labour post in 1987, where he established a formidable reputation for ending public sector strikes. He was one of two ministers chosen by Mr Haughey to conduct delicate negotiations with the Progressive Democrats when Fianna Fáil entered its first coalition in 1989.

Mr Ahern is on the liberal wing of the party and Fianna Fáil under his leadership would sit more easily in coalition with either the Labour party or the PDs than under Mr Haughey or the other main candidates. Mr Ahern

Edward Gorman
profiles the four
most likely
candidates to take
on the leadership
of the party should
Charles Haughey
resign next week

has so far stood resolutely by Mr Haughey and it was his decision to back him last autumn that was instrumental in ensuring that Albert Reynolds did not succeed in his attempt to have Mr Haughey removed from the leadership.

An Achilles' heel is his personal life. He left his wife for another woman and he is known to be concerned that the conservative electorate might balk at the idea of a separated man as their prime minister.

Mary O'Rourke, aged 54, currently minister for health, would be the first woman leader of Fianna Fáil and the first woman Taoiseach if she succeeds Mr Haughey. For that reason alone, some in the party would find it difficult to accept her.

Mrs O'Rourke, from Athlone, in the Irish midlands, comes with a purebred Fianna Fáil pedigree. Her father was a Dáil deputy for the party and her elder



Party favourites: the likely successors, from left to right, Albert Reynolds, Ray MacSharry, Bertie Ahern and Mary O'Rourke

brother, Brian Lenihan, has been one of its leading figures for 30 years. His dismissal by Mr Haughey in December 1990, over allegations that he lied on television during his campaign for president, brought out fierce family loyalty in Mrs O'Rourke and strained her relationship with Mr Haughey.

Mrs O'Rourke began her career as a secondary school teacher before moving into politics in 1981, when she was elected to the senate. She won her first Dáil seat a year later.

She became education minister in 1987, a position she retained until the autumn

reshuffle, when she moved to health. She was regarded as particularly effective at education, where she published a far-reaching Green Paper and launched an Aids education programme.

Mrs O'Rourke is believed

not to be opposed to divorce or more freely available contraception and regards herself as a liberal Roman Catholic. She is ambitious, forceful and a candidate around whom much of the party could unite.

Her main weakness is her lack of experience, especially on the economy and foreign affairs, but she makes no secret of her ambition to lead

her country and believes she is capable of it.

Ray MacSharry, EC commis-

sioner for agricultural

development since 1989, is

regarded as the man Mr Haughey would most like to succeed him, but he may not have the chance.

Mr MacSharry was one of the so-called gang of five who nominated Mr Haughey to the Fianna Fáil leadership in 1979, and has been loyal ever since. Mr Haughey is believed to have wanted to lead his party into another general election, allowing Mr MacSharry to return from Europe in triumph, regain his seat in the Dáil and take

over the leadership. A sudden resignation by the incumbent, it appears to rule him out, since he is not due to return to Dublin until December.

Mr MacSharry, aged 53, a

teetotaller who is married

with six children, is regarded

as an old-style, generally con-

servative Fianna Fáil.

His skill as a negotiator in

Europe, where he has han-

ded tough and exhausting

negotiations on the Common

Agricultural Policy and trade

reform, have enhanced his

profile at home. He has bene-

fited from being away during

the latest scandals and lead-

ership disputes.

He is a farmer and former

road haulier from Sligo in the North-West, and was elected to the Dáil in 1969. He was deputy prime minister and finance minister in Mr Haughey's 1982 government

and finance minister again between 1987 and 1988. He is a self-made man who is regarded as a somewhat cold

individual lacking in charisma, but his experience and ability are not in doubt.

Albert Reynolds, former finance minister, aged 56, is the only one of the contenders to have openly attempted to remove Mr Haughey from office, and this may count against him in the long run. Mr Reynolds, from Longford

in the midlands, backed a no-confidence motion in Mr Haughey last November and lost his cabinet job in the process. The move backfired when Haughey loyalists rallied to defeat the motion by 55 votes to 22.

There have also been rumours lately that either directly or indirectly, Sean Doherty, the former justice minister who is alleging Mr Haughey's direct involvement in the telephone tapping scandal, might be working for Mr Reynolds. If this perception persists, it could damage Mr Reynolds.

Nevertheless, the millionaire per food entrepreneur and former manager of a string of ballrooms, who is married with two sons and five daughters, must still be the strongest candidate. A pragmatist with a reputation for getting things done, he took his first Dáil seat in 1977 and became posts and telegraphs minister two years later.

Since then he has held the transport, energy, industry and commerce and finance portfolios, making him probably the most experienced candidate, though he has said little on foreign affairs and Northern Ireland.

Ready to quit, page 1
Diary, page 14

Change in poll tax law likely to plug default loopholes

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE home secretary is expected to announce today that the government will change the law to allow computerised poll tax records to be used as evidence that defaulters have not paid.

Kenneth Baker's announcement was pre-empted yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, who said he was changing the law to prevent poll tax defaulters escaping prosecution if their debts were more than two years old.

After announcing on television on Wednesday night that legislation was imminent, Mr Heseltine has taken control of measures to prevent the collapse of the community charge system in England and Wales.

More than 10,000 cases against non-payers have come to a halt in the courts after rulings that computer records were not admissible as evidence of non-payment.

All councils use computers to administer the tax and if the rulings are upheld by the High Court, local authority leaders say that the poll tax will become unenforceable.

The delays caused by the rulings have raised the spectre

of thousands of cases being lost because of a rule that councils have only two years to begin court action against defaulters.

Many of the delayed cases relate to poll tax bills issued in April 1990 and risked being struck out under the two-year rule if the issue had not been resolved by the end of March.

Mr Heseltine said he would use his powers to change the rules by issuing regulations within the next few days increasing the time limit to six years, the same period allowed for councils to collect rate arrears. "We are determined that authorities should be able to enforce against all defaulters," he said. "There will be no amnesty for non-payers."

The task for Mr Baker in framing measures to make computer records admissible is more formidable. Government lawyers have said that a simple change in the law to admit computer records as evidence in poll tax cases would risk invalidating seven million liability orders already granted by the courts.

Attempts to overcome the problem by backdating the legislation are fraught with problems because of the rule

that legislation cannot be retrospective.

Technical legal difficulties are not expected to prevent Mr Baker from announcing later today his intention to change the law.

The scale of poll tax collection problems London was underlined yesterday when the Labour controlled Association of London Authorities published figures showing that one in three Londoners had been summonsed for non-payment.

The association said that 1.8 million summonses had been issued and 1.2 million liability orders obtained by London boroughs since the poll tax was introduced in April 1990.

At a meeting in London the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which represents London and the major cities, called for a government advertising campaign to persuade more people to pay the poll tax.

Rodney Brooke, the association's secretary, warned that non-payment would push up bills by between £20 and £40 a head from April. In some places a surcharge of more than £100 would be added to cover non-collection losses.

Labour considers complaint to BBC

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE Labour party is considering a formal complaint to the BBC about its handling of the sensitive pre-election debate over its taxation proposals.

During a discussion on Wednesday night about general election preparations, the shadow cabinet was reported to have taken the unanimous view that the corporation's reporting of the issue had fallen below its usual standards.

David Hill, Labour's communications director, is preparing a detailed report on the way the party's proposals to introduce a new 50p top rate of tax and lift the ceiling on national insurance contributions has been portrayed. It is likely to result in an approach to Sir Michael Checkland, the director-general, from senior party figures including John Cunningham, the campaigns chief, and Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary.

The main complaint levelled by Labour frontbenchers is that the BBC has been obsessed with the effects of Labour's changes on higher earners but has failed to focus sufficiently on the benefits which they will pay for increased pensions and child benefit. There was also anger that the Today programme had wrongly reported the Institute of Fiscal Studies last Friday as suggesting that Labour's plans would hit one in three voters. The error was repeated in full prominence in London's *Evening Standard*.

The establishment of a second "regulator" will reduce the role of the RHAs in relation to the trusts, allowing them to focus on purchasing services and formulating a local health strategy.

New teams to check NHS trusts

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

MONITORING organisations are to be set up by the government to review the activities of self-governing hospitals in a move that could spell the end of the regional health authorities.

Six outposts of the NHS management executive are to be set up in cities including Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, which will run in parallel with regional health authorities. Known as "zonal outposts", they will maintain a direct line of management to the centre, monitoring the financial performance of the hospital trusts.

The outposts are seen as necessary to improve monitoring of the self-governing hospitals as their numbers increase. A further 100 hospitals are to be granted self-governing status next April, pushing the total past 150.

The zonal outposts are being formed as an interim arrangement for 12 months while further thought is given to the long term structure of the NHS. At present, regional health authorities monitor district health authorities and self-governing trusts and act as regulators of the NHS market.

The establishment of a second "regulator" will reduce the role of the RHAs in relation to the trusts, allowing them to focus on purchasing services and formulating a local health strategy.

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**Protest greets
Twyford
Down dig**

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

PROTESTS from local residents greeted the start of construction work yesterday on the Twyford Down section of the M3 in Hampshire, one of the road projects which the European Environmental Commissioner, Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana, has asked Britain to halt.

Bulldozers churning up a copse south of Winchester marked the transport department's determination to ignore Signor di Meana's request and the pleas of campaigners against the scheme. It will destroy one of England's most heavily protected landscapes, carving a 400ft gap in the chalk through Twyford Down and creating a high embankment across the Itchen valley.

The tax plans themselves provoked a dispute between the Conservatives and the Daily Mirror. Fleet Street's most fervently pro-Labour newspaper refused to accept a Tory party advertisement attacking the plans.

Richard Stott, the paper's editor, turned down Central Office's "bombshell" depiction of Labour's tax ambitions because it was based on a "lie".

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, suggested that the paper was being hypocritical given its customary regard for accuracy.

Central Office's £100,000 media blitz on Labour's alleged hidden agenda of a 10p in the pound basic rate income tax hike to pay for its £37 billion spending programme appeared in The Times and five tabloids — Today, The Sun, The Daily Mail, The Star, The Daily Express and The Star.

• The case for an independent Scotland was given valuable support yesterday when the Scottish edition of The Sun newspaper announced its support for the cause of independence as a matter of editorial policy.

Major attacks snobbery against vocational study

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

THE prime minister yesterday highlighted his vision of a classless society by giving personal backing to measures aimed at breaking down barriers between academic and vocational education and by denouncing "old fashioned prejudices and snobberies" against manual work.

John Major threw his weight behind plans to achieve a ten-fold increase in the number of people gaining work-based qualifications and countered Labour's attack by maintaining that ministers were creating the most effective and flexible system of vocational education in the world.

His intervention came as Michael Howard, the employment secretary, heightened the electioneering atmosphere by saying that Labour's policies to introduce a minimum wage alone would cost £2.25 million, Mr Howard said.

Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, dismissed Mr Howard's figures and accused the government of doubling unemployment.

"The Conservatives have scored an own goal this morning in trying to claim Labour proposals for investment in training would lose jobs," he said. Labour would "hang round the government's neck from now until polling day" by the issue of lengthening dole queues, Mr Blair said.

Recalling his personal involvement in the launch of last summer's white paper *Education and Training for*

Labour derided the figures and said that the Tories were in a shambles over their training programme.

Mr Howard said that Labour's policy for a minimum wage alone would cost two million jobs. When Labour's proposals for a jobs tax and its social action were thrown in the total would rise to £2.25 million, Mr Howard said.

Speaking in London to a meeting of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, Mr Major outlined a four-point strategy for giving practical courses the same status as academic studies and for eroding distinctions between the two. "In this country we have always failed to give status to the practical as compared with the academic and the professional careers," the prime minister said. "All that is changing. Must change."

Mr Blair countered with new figures showing that two thirds of those on employment training leave their programme without a qualification.

Parliament, page 6

Viz bails out soccer club

BY JOE JOSEPH

Doggie detective turned Spanish missing person case into 24-year sentence for murder

Husband jailed for bludgeoning wife

BY KERRY GILL

THE suspicions and persistence of a Scottish detective led yesterday to a British oil executive being jailed for 24 years for bludgeoning his wife to death and dismembering her body in the bedroom of their Spanish villa.

Stuart Hutchinson, aged 47, was sentenced at Malaga's palace of justice after a two-day trial during which he denied the murder, claiming that his wife Alice had walked out of their home and disappeared.

Mrs Hutchinson, aged 38, was an amateur opera singer and the couple's £188,000 villa near Marbella was called Bel Canto, "beautiful song". It was there that Hutchinson, a tax exile, drained her body of blood and cut it up with a tenon saw, burning some remains and scattering others on dumps and building sites.

The case would have remained a missing person file but for the determination of Detective Superintendent Alex Den of Aberdeen police, and his knowledge of an obscure clause in Scottish criminal legislation which gave him the basis for conducting an investigation abroad.

Mrs Hutchinson's father, Jim Davidson, could not believe that his daughter would vanish without good reason. He told a policeman in his home district of Aberdeen that she was missing. Grampian police, through Interpol, asked the Spanish authorities to open an investi-

gation. There was no reply and the matter was routinely passed to the CID, where it came to the notice of Det Supt Den, then an inspector.

He knew that he had jurisdiction to investigate a suspected killing of a person by a British national abroad, under Section 6 (1) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act of 1975. That effectively allows for a British subject, once extradited, to be punished in a Scottish court for culpable homicide or murder committed abroad.

Det Supt Den discovered that Mr and Mrs Hutchinson could be an explosive couple. Hutchinson was known once to have assaulted his wife, a fact which would enable the officer to establish the malice to be punished in a Scottish court for culpable homicide or murder.

He also learnt that Hutchinson

had given conflicting stories about his wife's disappearance in February 1989. He told her cousin, Audrey Sutherland, that Mrs Hutchinson, a soprano, had gone to the Seville opera house. Later he said that she might have gone to an audition at Covent Garden.

There were other suspicious circumstances. Why had Mrs Hutchinson not contacted her two sons by a previous marriage, spoken to her parents, or sent mother's day flowers as usual? Mrs Hutchinson's dog was left at the villa, and so was her jewellery, passport and clothing, which were found by neighbours.

The Crown Office refused to grant extradition papers, but Det Supt Den and Detective Sergeant Gordon Thomson flew to Spain to exchange information. They met inspectors Alfredo Tarajan and Jesus Pena, and cemented a relationship with a bottle of Scotch whisky. The Spanish police, too, became convinced that Mrs Hutchinson had been murdered.

Throughout a police interview Hutchinson, from Harlepool, Cleveland, and who ran a removal business in Spain, remained calm. An interview with a family maid provided a breakthrough: she had found traces of blood in the couple's bedroom. Spanish police drove to Bel Canto in the early hours and woke Hutchinson as he lay in bed with a Dutch model.

Although the bedroom had been freshly painted there were still signs of blood extending six feet up the walls. Eventually Hutchinson confessed to a row with his wife which ended in his battering her to death with a baton kept for burglars. He described how he dragged an unused door into the bedroom on which he lay his



Stuart and Alice Hutchinson on their wedding day: he dismembered her body at their villa

wife's bloody body. As his daughter by his first marriage, then aged 14, slept in another room, he spent the night cutting up the body. He poured the blood into a drain beneath the bedroom wash-basin.

Exhausted, Hutchinson snatched a few hours' sleep before taking a shower and driving his daughter.

Katinka, to school. On his return, he burnt pieces of his wife's body in old paint tins and a fire grate before dumping other remains. The court also sentenced Hutchinson to a further three months and a fine of £500 for dismembering the body.

He had been arrested two months after his wife vanished. He repeated his con-

Midlands police call new enquiry

BY CRAIG SETON

A NEW investigation is being carried out into allegations of criminal conduct involving detectives from the West Midlands force, it was disclosed yesterday.

Detective Chief Superintendent David Baker, of Leicestershire, has been called in by the West Midlands force to investigate the allegations, which concern officers from D division, based in north Birmingham. His enquiry is being supervised by the Police Complaints Authority.

The allegations follow an unconnected undercover surveillance operation by West Midlands police that allegedly revealed a suspicious relationship between two detectives and a suspected criminal. They are not connected to the two-year investigation by West Yorkshire police into the former West Midlands serious crime squad, which was disbanded in August 1989 amid claims that officers had fabricated confessions.

Superintendent Ray Starkey, of West Midlands, confirmed yesterday that a new investigation was under way, but no other details were given and it has not been disclosed whether any detectives have been suspended. It was understood yesterday that the enquiry could involve allegations against more than two officers.

Karamjit Singh, an officer with the complaints authority, is supervising the investigation and is expected to meet Det Chief Supt Baker in Birmingham today to discuss the scope of the enquiry. It comes less than three months after the PCA released a critical report on the investigation into the serious crime squad, which concluded that the unit had not been subject to proper management control.

Mr Justice Kennedy ruled in the High Court yesterday that a preliminary report on the serious crime squad by Donald Shaw, an assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, was confidential and must not be made public. The West Midlands police authority and Ronald Hadfield, chief constable, were granted an injunction preventing a Walsall borough council from publishing the document and three others.

Fist fight gave man Aids virus

BY THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FIGHT at a wedding reception resulted in one man infecting another with the Aids virus, according to doctors reporting in *The Lancet* today. The incident shows that the virus can be transmitted by blood contact due to physical violence.

Both men — an intruder and an invited guest — bled profusely from face injuries sustained in the "vigorous fist fight", and the guest was admitted to hospital ten days later with nausea, diarrhoea and a rash. He was treated for a viral infection, and discharged two weeks later.

Doctors learnt that the intruder was HIV-positive. He has since died. Last November, more than two years after the fight, the guest was found also to have HIV when he went to give blood. He had been married for 17 years and there was no evidence that he might have become infected through homosexual contact, drug abuse or contact with prostitutes.

Peter Morgan-Capner, consultant virologist at the Royal Preston hospital, Lancashire, and doctor from Guy's hospital, London, conclude that the man was infected during the fight. "This is the only case we know of in Britain in which HIV was transmitted in this way," Dr Morgan-Capner said yesterday. "It clearly demonstrates that the virus can be contracted during a fight in which there is bloodshed. Although this must be extraordinarily rare, the general spread of infection suggests it will occur more often in the future."

He added that the case showed that the blood transfusion service's screening system was effective. Apart from heterosexual intercourse, blood-to-blood transmission is the most important means of HIV spread worldwide.

Study shows cancer link among nuclear workers

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

OCCUPATIONAL exposure to radiation can cause cancer, the largest ever study of nuclear workers has shown. A clear link has been established between deaths from leukaemia and low doses of radiation, with risks rising steadily as dose increases.

The study, by the National Radiological Protection Board, has also shown a link between radiation dose and the death rate from all cancers, although evidence is far less clear than for leukaemia.

The board's figures suggest that the limits on radiation

exposure set by the International Commission on Radiological Protection are too high by a factor of about two. Dr Roger Clarke, director of the NRPB, said yesterday that it was too soon to draw this conclusion, because the data were not yet comprehensive enough to be certain of the result. The range of potential error was too wide to conclude that the commission was wrong, he said.

Critics of the nuclear industry have seized on the figures. Friends of the Earth accused the NRPB of "gambling with

the limits on radiation

Forgotten play is given an encore

BY SIMON TAIT ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A FORGOTTEN play by a leading Shakespearean actor has been rediscovered and will be given its first performance for more than 300 years.

A Woman is a Weathercock is one of two plays known to have been written by Nathan Field, but it has not been performed since 1667. The play is to be performed next month at the Pentameters Theatre in Hampstead.

Field, born in 1587, was the son of a parson and ran away — or may have been kidnapped — to be an actor when he was 13. He became one of the leading portrayers of female roles in an age when there were no actresses and is reputed to have played Desdemona at the Globe Theatre, London. He is named as a principal actor in the first folio of Shakespeare's works of 1623.

His writing has been ignored, however, and in the early 19th century *A Woman is a Weathercock* was attributed to Sheridan. It is a roistering comedy whose theme is how affections change, written when Field was 22 and performed before James I in the winter of 1609-10.

It will be directed by Graham Wats, who was re-

searching the life of Field at Dulwich College last year when Jan Piggott, the college archivist, showed him a copy of the play which was in a bundle of Victorian books bought from a dealer.

Arts, page 12



Field: leading portrayer of women's roles

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Arts, page 12

When a woman's age is no secret

BY JOHN YOUNG

A FORMER policewoman found herself in trouble with the law yesterday for refusing to disclose her age to a male officer 21 years her junior.

Clare Harrison, who served for five years with the Durham force in the 1950s, was stopped by PC Karl Horowitz in Stockton-on-Tees on October 10 for not wearing a seat belt while driving her car.

Yesterday she told Teesside magistrates' court that she was 55 but that she had refused to disclose the fact to PC Horowitz.

"I said that I was in the interesting age of some-



Harrison: "Between 25 and death"

fensive and high-handed. I had committed a motoring offence and not a felony. I cannot believe that women are being raped in the streets and I am being brought here for an offence of refusing to give my date of birth."

Peter Kilgour, for the prosecution, said that Mrs Harrison was not carrying a driving licence and that PC Horowitz had wanted to know her date of birth to check if she was entitled to drive. She had replied: "It must be the way they train you these days."

Mrs Harrison suffered another blow yesterday. When she left the court she found a £25 fixed penalty ticket on her car for illegal parking.

taking one of her 14 cats to a veterinary surgery.

She said yesterday: "I have always defended the police to the hilt, because they have an extremely difficult job to do. But I don't think that this sort of thing fosters good relations with the public."

After pleading guilty to failing to state her date of birth to a police officer under section 164 of the Road Traffic Act, Mrs Harrison was fined £5 with £12 costs.

Mrs Harrison suffered another blow yesterday. When she left the court she found a £25 fixed penalty ticket on her car for illegal parking.

Birdspotter raised IRA alert

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A NATURALIST yesterday described how he came across Nesan Quinlivan, one of the IRA suspects who escaped from Brixton prison last year, posing as a birdwatcher close to a Royal Marine training ground in Devon a few months before his arrest.

Trevor Barden told a jury at the Central Criminal Court that he saw Quinlivan and a second Irishman three times

on Bickton Common, Devon, in June 1990. His suspicions grew as the men were either in the wrong place to spot birds or without their equipment. He said that he saw the men focusing their binoculars on the Royal Marine training ground near by. He raised the alarm and later identified Quinlivan after his arrest in October 1990.

Mr Barden was giving evi-

dence on the second day of the trial of William McKane, aged 24, from northwest London, who is accused on three counts, with Quinlivan and Pearse McAuley, the second escapee from Brixton. Mr McKane denies conspiracy to murder Sir Charles Tidbury and others; conspiracy to cause explosions and possession of firearms.

The trial continues today.

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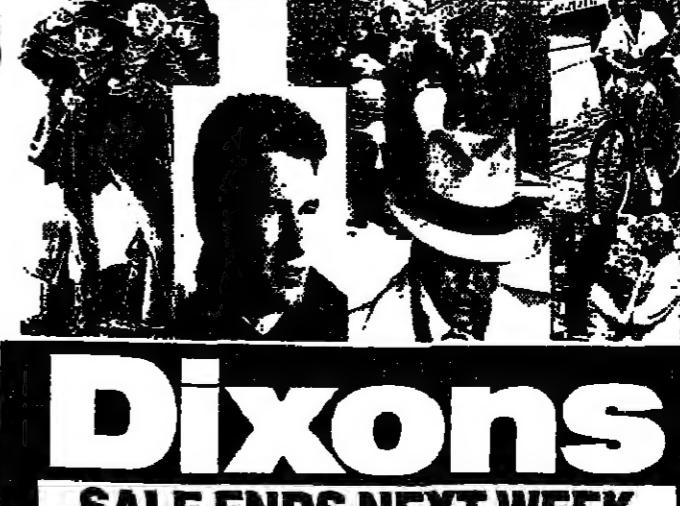
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Rank	Fund Name	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987
1	State Life	192.8	192.8	192.8	192.8	192.8
2	Standard Life	192.7	192.7	192.7	192.7	192.7
3	Statewide	192.6	192.6	192.6	192.6	192.6
4	BlackRock	192.5	192.5	192.5	192.5	192.5
5	Teekay	192.4	192.4	192.4	192.4	192.4
6	Central Life Assurance	192.3	192.3	192.3	192.3	192.3
7	Prudential	192.2	192.2	192.2	192.2	192.2
8	Aviva	192.1	192.1	192.1	192.1	192.1
9	British Insurance	192.0	192.0	192.0	192.0	192.0
10	Sun Life Assurance	191.9	191.9	191.9	191.9	191.9
11	London Life	191.8	191.8	191.8	191.8	191.8
12	Alberta	191.7	191.7	191.7	191.7	191.7
13	Sea Life Assurance	191.6	191.6	191.6	191.6	191.6
14	Direct	191.5	191.5	191.5	191.5	191.5
15	Alloy	191.4	191.4	191.4	191.4	191.4
16	Sun Life Assurance	191.3	191.3	191.3	191.3	191.3
17	Prud	191.2	191.2	191.2	191.2	191.2
18	General Investors	191.1	191.1	191.1	191.1	191.1
19	ISB	191.0	191.0	191.0	191.0	191.0
20	Scottish Provident	190.9	190.9	190.9	190.9	190.9
21	HNL Savings	190.8	190.8	190.8	190.8	190.8
22	Confidence Investors	190.7	190.7	190.7	190.7	190.7
23	Prudential Trust	190.6	190.6	190.6	190.6	190.6
24	M&G	190.5	190.5	190.5	190.5	190.5
25	Friends Provident	190.4	190.4	190.4	190.4	190.4
26	Prudential	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3
27	Scotlife Mutual	190.2	190.2	190.2	190.2	190.2
28	Scottish Widows	190.1	190.1	190.1	190.1	190.1
29	Sun Alliance	189.9	189.9	189.9	189.9	189.9
30	Scotlife Assurance	189.8	189.8	189.8	189.8	189.8
31	NPI	189.7	189.7	189.7	189.7	189.7
32	Laurentian	189.6	189.6	189.6	189.6	189.6
33	GRF	189.5	189.5	189.5	189.5	189.5
34	Manulife	189.4	189.4	189.4	189.4	189.4
35	Barclays Life	189.3	189.3	189.3	189.3	189.3
36	Eagle Star	189.2	189.2	189.2	189.2	189.2
37	Cornhill	189.1	189.1	189.1	189.1	189.1
38	Prolific	189.0	189.0	189.0	189.0	189.0
39	Commercial Union	188.9	188.9	188.9	188.9	188.9
40		188.8	188.8	188.8	188.8	188.8

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Immigration agency found guilty of racial bias

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN IMMIGRANT advice agency agreed yesterday to pay £11,000 damages to a senior employee after an industrial tribunal found it guilty of racial discrimination.

The move by the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service came less than 24 hours after the resignation of its director at the end of a stormy annual meeting at which he narrowly lost a vote of confidence.

The tribunal awarded the

Plea fails over dead parrot

By BILL FROST

A COUPLE whose pet died ten days after being bought from a pet shop lost their claim for compensation yesterday in a case reminiscent of a *Monty Python* sketch.

Mary and John Trebell, of Truro, Cornwall, owners of Joey, the eight-month-old African Grey, told Truro county court: "She must have died during the night. Joey was on her side at the bottom of the cage."

They complained to Graham Marks, the pet shop owner, and asked for their money back. A post mortem examination found that Joey died from a fungal disease.

Mr Marks said: "I know Joey was healthy when she left us, but it is possible the bird could have died from shock."

"Joey might have been frightened by a noise, or car headlights, flashing through the window. African Greys are susceptible to shock."

After a two-hour hearing in chambers, the judge ruled against the claim for £153 compensation.

After the hearing, Mr Marks said that he had suggested to the couple that they select another parrot at cost price, £100, but they declined.

City air 'breaks safety limits'

By PAUL WILKINSON

AIR IN four of Britain's cities is so badly polluted that it breaks European Commission safety levels. Friends of the Earth said yesterday. Average nitrogen dioxide levels in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Cardiff exceed the EC safety limit of 40 parts per billion, according to a survey by the environmental pressure group.

Conditions in Sheffield, Glasgow, Bristol, Bradford, and Farnham, Surrey, are little better and needed careful monitoring, according to the survey, carried out over Christmas and the new year.

Details of the survey, for BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, were released yesterday as David Trippier, the environment minister, launched a £3 million extension to the government's air pollution monitoring system. Mr Trippier said the survey was "cheap and cheerful" and not sufficiently authoritative even though the results were analysed at the government's Harwell laboratories.

Ten environment department stations already sample atmospheric conditions. Their readings are used for

short term pollution warnings, particularly of vehicle exhausts, and also help scientists to trace the effectiveness of long term measures to improve air quality.

In London yesterday, Mr Trippier inaugurated the capital's fourth site and the first



Race tracks: Mike Bradbury, a competitor in this winter's British husky team races, training in the Black Mountains of Wales. Although practising in snow gives husky racing the authentic touch, the competition is usually held on hard ground with lightweight wheeled rigs (Alix Ramsay writes).

This week the six-dog race, held in Loch Ard forest in Scotland's Central region, was won by John Coyle

of Scotland. Eighty-five mushers and their huskies competed over a flat, eight-mile course, with some teams reaching 25mph. The fourth race in the series will be held in Kielder forest, Northumberland, on February 15.

Britain has become one of the leading countries in racing on dry ground and specialises in sprint races. With about 150 teams in competition, the sport is growing

fast here, especially in Scotland, where the weather and terrain are more suited to a sport normally associated with Alaska and Canada. The Siberian huskies were originally bred for speed, the theory being that a large team of light dogs would not fall through the pack ice as a small group of heavy dogs would.

"Musher" is now a misnomer. Nobody yells "Mush!" at their dogs any more, a word which was probably a corruption of *marcher*, the command which French prospectors gave their dogs in the days of the gold rush.

The organiser of the Loch Ard race was Ross Goldie. He first bought a husky seven years ago and now, with ten dogs, he and his wife give lectures on working and racing teams. "The appeal of the sport is the animals themselves," he said. "The racing is an additional attraction."

Farms seek £30m landscape cash

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 1,200 farmers have applied for grants to conserve and restore threatened landscapes under a countryside stewardship scheme launched last June, it was announced yesterday.

The Countryside Commission, which administers the grants on behalf of the environment department, said that they were being increased from £13 million over three years to £30 million over four. Sir John Johnson, the commission chairman, said it was hoped that the pilot scheme would lead to a national conservation system.

If all the 1,183 applications are approved, the scheme will cover about 170 square miles, in a third of which the grants depend on the public being given access. Farmers are paid up to £120 an acre under ten-year contracts for protecting or recreating five types of countryside chalk and limestone grassland, lowland heath, grazing marshes, water meadows and other wetlands, coastal vegetation and uplands.

All these landscapes have been severely damaged by ploughing and draining uncultivated land and by heavily subsidised, intensive agriculture that has led to overgrazing.

The highest payments are for farmers who not merely preserve such landscapes but restore them, for example, by letting arable fields revert to pasture, heath, heather moorland or hay meadows, or by leaving swaths of untilled land along cliff-tops.

There are payments for restoring such traditional features as dry-stone walls, hedgerows, red beds and pollarded willows. Farmers qualify for an extra £20 an acre if they allow the public on to their land.

Sir John said that the commission would soon announce plans to extend the grants to "green margins": areas on the fringes of towns and cities preserved from development by green-belt controls but often allowed to fall into a semi-derelict state. Michael Kirby, the commission's director of operations, said: "Government policy has been successful in checking urban sprawl, but little attention has been given to positive exploitation of the recreational possibilities of areas of land on city fringes."

Friends of the Earth welcomed the cash increase but said that the proposed expenditure was tiny when compared with the £1,600 million spent every year on subsidising agricultural production. Robin Maynard, its countryside campaigner, said: "It is hard to take the government's commitment seriously when its main answer to agricultural overproduction is still the sterile set-aside scheme which simply pays farmers to leave their land idle."

Canny farmer plots floral hereafter

By KERRY GILL

FOR years, Ian Alcock dreaded the thought of being buried in an official cemetery, a practice that he considered morbid and exorbitantly expensive.

As he grew older Mr Alcock, aged 56, and his wife Alison began to look favourably on a wildflower meadow within a site of scientific interest overlooking his 500-acre farm on Royal Deeside. The meadow would be a "delightful place to be interred beside Mrs Alcock when the day of reckoning arrived."

Yesterday, Kinbrace and Deeside district council, after consulting the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland, gave permission for the meadow

to be turned into a private burial ground. There are no plans to have the plot consecrated, but Mr Alcock said:

"Over the years the church has come into my mind that they should be buried in consecrated ground, which is not true. And I object to the undertakers, caskets, rubbing their hands when somebody dies. A thousand pounds is nothing these days."

He also denied that his plans to inter his wife were morbid. Using his mechanical digger, Mr Alcock believes that he can cut the cost to around £28, the price of a cheap plywood coffin.

"If my wife goes first I can operate the digger," he said. "If I go first, I have left her a list of neighbours who have diggers. The ridiculous thing is

that when one of my cows dies I can go ahead and bury it, but I need planning permission to bury my wife who is only a third of the size. When I die I would much rather lie in my own bit of ground than be lined up in a cemetery with a row of people I don't know."

Mr Alcock insisted that his wife was in total accord with his views.

The burial ground must be created within five years after which the Alcocks must re-apply, unless the Great Reaper sends for either of them first. Any fencing or headstones would need separate permission, but Mr Alcock said that he had no intention of running the meadow except to plant a tree or place a small boulder on the spot where he and his wife lie.

Lassy puts bite on TV licence dodgers

A powerful computer system that gives instant access to television licence records is being used against evaders.

A campaign began in London at the start of the month and is being extended to cover the South-East, using a fleet of new detector vans. Post Office investigators, with the help of the Licence Administration Support System — nicknamed Lassy — are catching more than 1,000 evaders each day.

The computer can call up any of 24 million addresses and issue print-outs. An estimated 1.9 million licence dodgers deprive the BBC of £150 million a year.

Pair remanded

Mark Dooley, aged 18, and Timothy Kelly, aged 21, of Deptford, southeast London, were remanded in custody by the Central Criminal Court after admitting the manslaughter of Ronald Harris, a retired headmaster.

Boys tortured

A sea cadet lieutenant from London was jailed for three and a half years by the Central Criminal Court for sadistic sex attacks on boys in his charge who were told that they had to pass through an initiation ceremony of pain.

Gas charge

British Gas is to stand trial at Luton crown court over explosions at Royston, Hertfordshire, last March allegedly caused by a gas surge after a pipeline was laid.

Foul play

A tractor-driving joyrider caused up to £20,000 of damage to Romsey golf course, Hampshire, when he churned up the 11th green and damaged two fairways.

Jolly good

Michael McCarthy, aged 43, a bistro owner of Mossley, Greater Manchester, has been chosen as the voice of the laughing man figure on Blackpool pleasure beach.

Body found

Police are trying to identify a dead man found stuck in a Thames mud bank under Southwark Bridge.

Polio caught from nappy

A MAN has been paralysed after contracting polio from the nappy of his niece days after the baby was inoculated against the disease.

The man, aged 48, who has not been named, was taken to Southampton general hospital with progressive paralysis after his doctor became alarmed by his symptoms. He is receiving constant treatment in the neurological unit.

The man, who is understood not to have been inoculated against polio as a child, was admitted on November 28 but details of his case have only just been disclosed. He has since developed paralysis of the lungs and has been placed on a ventilator.

Martin Wale, a consultant in communicable diseases at the hospital and who is caring for the man, said that there was no specific treatment available. "It is literally a one in three million chance that he contracted polio. The chance is so remote it is almost indescribable. It must be stressed that it is one of the safest of all methods of vaccine."

Polio attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

Seven million doses of the polio vaccine are given in sugar every year in the United Kingdom and it is seen as one of the safest inoculations.

Specialists have urged parents to continue having their children immunised.

The health department said that in 1989, the latest year for which figures are available, only one case of polio was recorded in Britain.



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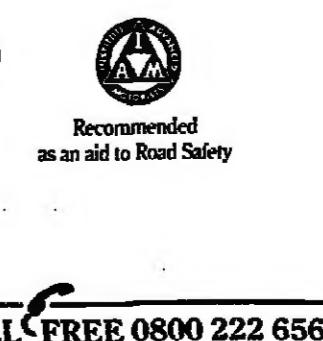
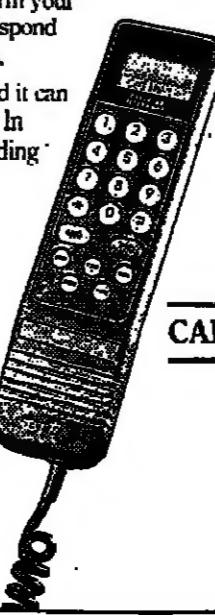
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Speaker separates warring parties

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

BERNARD Weatherill, the Speaker, yesterday warned MPs of the growing public distaste for the electioneering which is disfiguring Commons proceedings.

In a clear rebuke to Tory MPs who lob electioneering questions to the prime minister, Mr Weatherill warned them in advance not to ask Mr Major to comment on the policies of other parties for which he was not responsible.

Tory MPs have counter-charged that Labour whips have been involved in organising programmed barracking of ministers, and earlier yesterday Mr Weatherill had to appeal for "moderation in language".

At a morning press conference Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, had complained of the country being engulfed by a crime wave and promised that Labour would increase the number of police, paying for them from within the existing budget by ceasing to send to prison "people who shouldn't be there".

At Home Office question

time John Patten, the minister of state, accused the Opposition of proposing "to empty our prisons to pay for more police" — that coming from a Labour party which in 1979 left the police force of this country 8,000 under strength". After Mr Patten had said that being "assaulted" by Mr Hattersley was like being attacked by a bread and butter pudding, Mr Weatherill called for moderate language "since we have all got to live with each other for the next few months in an electioneering atmosphere".

But the partisan exchanges continued when the next week's business was discussed. MPs have noted that these weekly sessions are regularly included in the television coverage of the prime minister's Thursday questions and Tory MPs used them yet again to draw attention to Labour's tax policies.

This drew protests from Dr Jack Cunningham, who is both shadow leader of the Commons and Labour's campaign co-ordinator, that the "premeditated dishonesty" of

Conservative Central Office should not be permitted to be read into Hansard's reports of Commons proceedings.

After the charge of organised Labour barracking by Tory MP Robert Hughes, the Speaker said that the bad behaviour was coming from both sides and giving him some difficulty in defending MPs against the public who wrote in to complain.

Nothing stopped the daily barrage inside and outside the chamber. After Neil Kinnock's prediction in a *Financial Times* interview that Labour would win the election with an overall majority of 20 seats, Chris Patten, the Conservative chairman, refused to give his own precise forecast but emphasised: "We will win it with a good enough majority to ensure Britain is well governed in the 1990s."

Dr Cunningham yesterday denied it was "absolutely false" reports that Mr Kinnock and his shadow chancellor John Smith were split over National Insurance changes while Mr Hattersley called the story a "malicious lie".

Ministers turn on the charm for children

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are divided over how to reinforce the Tory claim to be the party of the family. Although extra help for childcare costs will be a centrepiece of the Budget, no agreement has yet been reached on whether to extend tax relief on childcare, to raise child benefit or to direct more cash to those on low incomes.

Ministers have been actively lobbied by professional women who are pressing for an extension on tax relief on workplace nurseries to cover provision not located on company premises.

Angela Rumbold, chairman of the ministerial group on women, and Gillian Shephard, the deputy chairman, are understood to favour the scheme. Although Norman Lamont is said to oppose this idea, it would be an easy sweetener to introduce in the Budget, merely extending a tax change introduced by Tony Newton, the social security secretary, that it will be uprated annually. Although child benefit is usually uprated in the autumn to come into effect the following April, last year Mr Lamont used the Budget to announce a mid-year increase in child benefit for the eldest child, to take effect in October 1991. This brought child benefit to

ing mothers, two-earner families who probably need the help least would benefit most, and prosperous families would gain at the expense of the poor.

Some ministers argue that the Tories should be supporting women who choose not to go to work, as well as those who do. One way of helping all mothers would be to raise child benefit. If increases were confined to either the eldest child or to children aged three and four, the government could still argue that it was helping families with childcare costs.

After four years of uncertainty over whether child benefit would widen on the vine, the prime minister has made it clear that he supports the scheme, and the manifesto is expected to confirm a pledge by Tony Newton, the social security secretary, that it will be uprated annually. Although child benefit is usually uprated in the autumn to come into effect the following April, last year Mr Lamont used the Budget to announce a mid-year increase in child benefit for the eldest child, to take effect in October 1991. This brought child benefit to



Women's work: Angela Rumbold is said to favour tax relief for nursery care.

£9.25 for the eldest child and £7.50 for subsequent children. This April benefit will rise again to £9.65 and £7.80.

Child benefit now goes to nearly seven million families with 12.3 million children, at a cost of £5.3 billion

(rising to £5.7 billion next year). The cheaper option would be to target families with children under five. A third option would be to raise family credit for low-income working families and increase family premiums on income support

which goes to the unemployed. Under both social security benefits families get less for children under 11. A working family with a child under 11 is entitled to a maximum of £38.30 a week for the adult credit, plus £9.70 for the child. The means-tested family credit scheme costs £484 million and covers 315,000 families. Income support goes to 4.2 million families and costs £8.54 billion. All families get an extra £7.95 a week. Under this option John Major could redress criticism that the gap between the rich and the poor widened considerably under 11 years of Thatcherism.

One or two of these options could be introduced in the Budget on March 10. However, under all the proposals except for extending tax relief, there is no guarantee that money will be spent on childcare.

Another idea being floated is to ensure that money is earmarked for child support by using a voucher scheme. Mothers would apply for a voucher, say at the post office, to go towards childcare costs. The voucher could then be put towards costs of a registered nursery or childminder.

Labour revises pledge on taxes

By PETER MULLAGAN

LABOUR last night qualified its pledge that no one earning less than £21,000 a year would lose under the plan to remove the national insurance upper earnings limit.

Michael Meacher, the shadow social security secretary, conceded in the Commons that some people on lower salaries who earn bonuses, overtime or commissions, would be affected. Responding to taunts about the value of the pledge, he said:

"It is a guarantee that all of those whose normal pay is at that level will not have to pay more."

He said the qualification was a "tiny little discrepancy" which would bear on "a few dozen, maybe a few hundred" people. Mr Meacher was responding to a challenge after saying Labour would not seek contributions to pay for its spending programme "from anyone earning less than £21,000 a year or £405 a week".

The admission was seized on by Tony Newton, the social security secretary, who said that a great many more than a few dozen people would be hit by the proposal if their weekly income went over the limit at which national insurance is activated.

The exchanges took place during a debate on poverty in which Labour accused the government of wilfully impoverishing the poorer part of the population and claimed that more than ten million people live below the poverty line.

Mr Meacher said the Tories were ignoring the beneficial effect Labour's proposals — to boost pensions and child benefit — would have on the poor.

Defending the government's record, Mr Newton was sharply challenged when he claimed support from the social security select committee. Frank Field, the committee chairman, accused him of using "highly selective quotations" from a committee report to argue that income increases had been seen at all levels. Despite repeated challenges, Mr Newton refused to accept a finding by the committee that the smallest increase had gone to the poor.

Mr Field said that some of his constituents were without hope because of the policies pursued by ministers. "While the average of living standards have increased under the stewardship of this government, the poor have seen the very smallest increase," he said.

A £5 million campaign against car crime is to be launched on February 11 with the support of manufacturers and big insurance companies, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, announced during question time.

The government had urged car makers to fit deadlocks, immobilisation devices and visible identification numbers, he said.

Mr Baker, who has met car manufacturers three times since December, added that when he first met them they did not seem to take the prevention of car crime very seriously. Now they were much more prepared to make cars more secure.

Bills split

The Local Government Finance Bill, which replaces the poll tax with the council tax, will allow householders to pay the tax in ten instalments. Robert Key, an environment minister, said in a written reply. Councils will also be able to let tenants pay the tax with their rents weekly or fortnightly.

Bentley case



John Patten, a Home Office minister, said in a written reply that he has now received the police report on the Derek Bentley case and hoped to decide soon whether any action was appropriate. Bentley (above) was hanged for the murder of a police officer but his accomplice, Christopher Craig, who was too young to hang, has cast doubt on the correctness of the conviction.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Traffic Calming Bill and Freedom of Information Bill, second readings.

Next week's business

THE main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Northern Ireland electricity orders. Tuesday: Prison Security Bill, remaining stages. Wednesday: Education (Schools) Bill, remaining stages.

Thursday: Revenue support grant orders for England and for Wales.

Friday: Private members' medicinal products, prescription by nurses etc Bill and Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, second readings.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, third day. Tuesday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, fourth day.

Wednesday: Debates on Wales and on the challenges facing the UN secretary-general.

Thursday: Local Government Finance Bill, committee, fifth day.

Friday: Coal Industry Bill, second reading. Osteopaths Bill, second reading.

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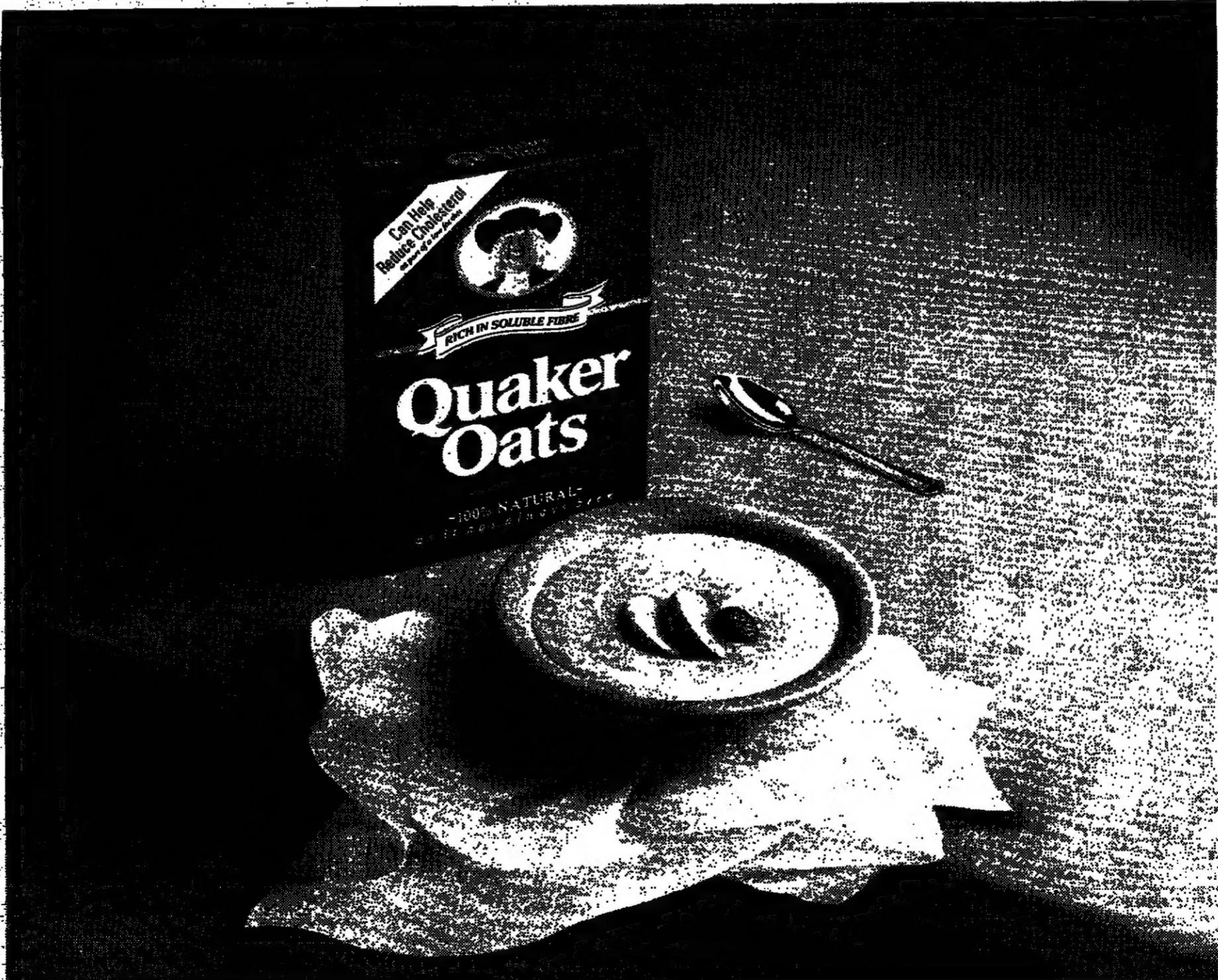
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Soviet admirals resist Ukraine in siege of Sevastopol



Kravchuk: fighting for control of the fleet

WHEN Tolstoy described Sevastopol harbour in 1854, with the city under Anglo-French siege during the Crimean War, he spoke of the "noisy jostle of soldiers in grey, sailors in black and women in all sorts of colours".

The sailors in their black and gold uniforms and the women are still there. But the great Black Sea fleet they belong to is demoralised, with many sailors resisting the Ukrainian takeover.

Sevastopol and the Crimea have belonged to a series of European empires over the centuries, but many of the citizens consider themselves, and the fleet, thoroughly Russian.

The fleet accounts for a quarter of the former Soviet navy's firepower. "I will not sign the Ukrainian oath. The

Control of the Black Sea fleet has become a test of Russia's ambitions and Ukraine's will to break Moscow's dominance, Robert Seely writes from Sevastopol

fleet is a unitary system and you cannot take it apart," Captain Andrei Grachov, spokesman for the fleet's commander, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, said. The admiral's refusal to take orders from Ukraine's defence ministry and his instructions to cut military communications between the fleet and Kiev have won him popularity in Russia. Senior officers at the base talk of their motherland, in the shape of a Russian-dominated Soviet Union, being "taken from us".

Sevastopol is used to deal

quietly of job harassment if they support the Ukrainian oath openly. "Many officers are scared for their future careers. They are worried they may lose housing and other benefits," said Captain Nikolai Khuk. Three weeks before last year's coup, Captain Khuk received a letter threatening him with dismissal for "anti-constitutional" activities and his support for an independent Ukraine.

If they succeed, the result will muddy an already complex problem. While the Crimea remains part of Ukraine, the republic's claim on the fleet, backed by its funding and the fact that conscripts will be supplied only from Ukraine, is strong. If the Crimean autonomous republic is lost, so is Ukraine's trump card in its battle to secure control of much of the navy.

Ukrainian officers in the fleet, who make up 30 per cent of its total, complain



the Communist party's retired dacha class and a dominant military presence ensured conformity to the Soviet ideal. Sevastopol, closed since 1982 and still ringed by road and rail checkpoints, has an air of spartan discipline lacking in almost every other former Soviet city.

However, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, people

have become willing to talk. Ivan Pavlovich, aged 82, a former officer, said that he pledged his loyalty to Russia and the Black Sea fleet's present commander. "[Admiral] Kasatonov is absolutely right when he says Moscow should be in charge of the fleet," he said. "Ukraine wanting its own navy is nationalistic stupidity."

• **Crimea vote:** The Russian parliament voted yesterday to re-examine the transfer of the Crimea to the Ukrainian republic in 1954. Deputies called on their Ukrainian counterparts also to reconsider the basis of the transfer by Khrushchev, of the peninsula, which at the time formed part of the Russian Federation, to the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian republic. (AFP)

Khrushchev knew of 600,000 Stalin toll

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MORE than 600,000 people were sentenced to death in the years between the end of the Russian civil war and the ascent to power of Nikita Khrushchev, according to figures published for the first time yesterday. Over the same period, almost 2.5 million were sentenced to long terms in prison and labour camps, and 750,000 people were exiled.

Tass yesterday gave the figures from what it said was a secret report submitted to Khrushchev in 1954, the year after he became Soviet leader. The figures relate to the 1921-54 period and show that an average of 20,000 people were sentenced to death in the Soviet Union in each of those 33 years.

The news agency quoted the report as saying that 3,777,580 people were persecuted for "counter-revolutionary activities" over that period, of whom 642,980 were sentenced to death, 2,369,200 to up to 25 years in prison or camps, and 765,180 to exile.

Estonia prime minister resigns

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

THE fall of the Estonian government yesterday has brutally underlined both the dependence of the Baltic states on Russian oil, and the question of the future political role of the Russian minorities in the region.

The resignation of Edgar Savisaar, the prime minister, follows a severe food shortage which was precipitated by lack of fuel. As trade within the former Soviet Union moves to a hard currency basis, all three Baltic states face enormous balance of payments problems with Russia.

Lithuania and Latvia can ensure some Russian oil supplies because Lithuania controls an oil refinery which resupplies parts of Russia, and Latvia controls the oil pipeline which carries Russian exports to the West. Estonia, however, possesses no such levers.

Mr Savisaar was accused, even by his own ministers, of not foreseeing the oil cuts and of relying on worthless contracts with Russia instead of determinedly asking for Western aid to pay for Western imports — although the critics sometimes forget that Estonia does not have the port facilities to bring in such imports in sufficient quantity. This charge became part of a general accusation against Mr Savisaar by right-wing parties that, as a former communist, he was too reliant on the old communist leadership and tended instinctively to look towards Moscow.

The Estonian parliament has set a two-week deadline to establish a new government. Mr Savisaar recommended as prime minister the parliament's chairman, and titular head of state, Arnold Rutele, the former communist leader, saying that the new prime minister should be impartial politically. However, Mr Rutele's candidacy is unlikely to be acceptable to the right.

While the figures fall far short of the numbers commonly regarded as the "victims" of Stalin or the Soviet system, they provide a horrific record of those who were punished through judicial channels over that period for the single offence of opposing — or being suspected of opposing — the regime.

Overall figures for those who lost their lives as a direct or indirect result of Soviet communism — including collectivisation and the famine which followed, enforced industrialisation, as well as in the camps — range from 25 to 40 million.

The figures published yesterday come from archives newly opened after the takeover by the Russian authorities of former Soviet institutions, including the former interior ministry. Their disclosure at this juncture may, however, have a further purpose.

President Yeltsin of Russia passed a decree last month that merged the interior ministry and the KGB into a single law and order ministry. His decision was declared unconstitutional and he withdrew the decree.

Before that, however, staff of the two institutions and parts of the Russian media claimed that the new super-ministry was reminiscent of Stalin's NKVD, and posed similar risks. The release of the figures may well have been intended as a further volley in the campaign against a merged ministry.

Missile cuts, page 1
Russian realism, page 12
Up for sale, page 14

Georgian leaders tighten noose

FROM BRUCE CLARK
IN SUKHUMI

THE authorities in Abkhazia, the northwestern region of Georgia, announced a security crackdown yesterday and it was widely speculated that a state of emergency would be introduced.

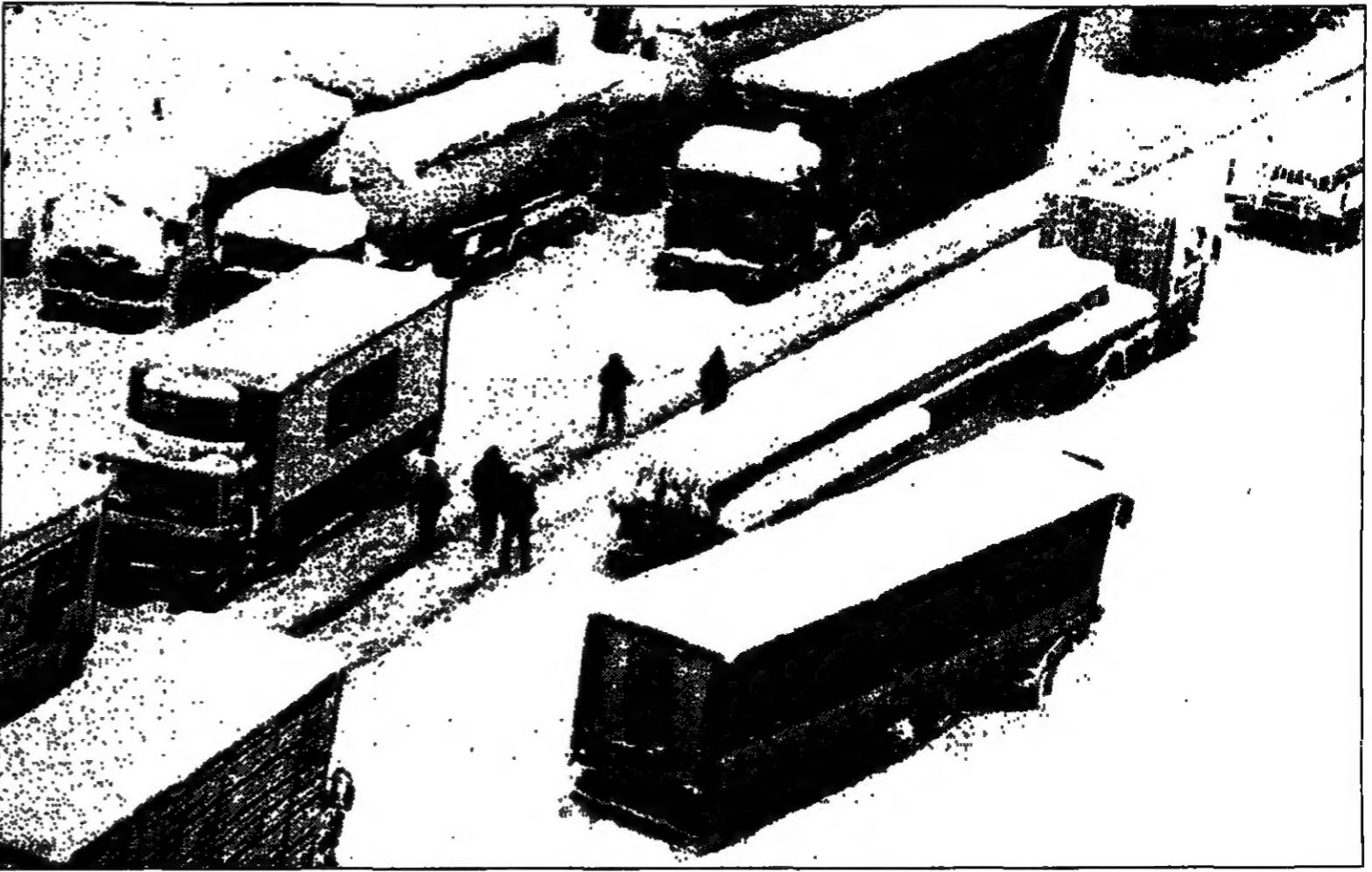
While the crackdown against "illegally held arms" was supposedly directed at all sides, it was almost certain to be interpreted as being aimed at supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president, who control Sukhumi airport and a prestigious government dacha just outside the city.

In Poti, government soldiers fought gun battles with armed resistance groups yesterday. A government leader said 15 people were killed in the latest clashes and local officials reported at least two wounded in the Black Sea port, where rival forces fired at each other from opposite sides of the Rioni river.

Officials of the self-governing Abkhazia region, where the ethnic Abkhazian community enjoys much-reinforced political power, acknowledged that extra paramilitary forces had been flown into the area from southern Russia.

Earlier, a close associate of Mr Gamsakhurdia, Nugzar Molodinashvili, had raised the spirits of a 500-strong seafarant rally in the city by announcing that the ousted president "is in good health, is getting better all the time and sends you greetings". He denied rumours that Mr Gamsakhurdia was on a drip-feed.

In the snow-covered valleys of western Georgia, meanwhile, the sides seemed to be edging towards a compromise yesterday, though the opposition strongman, Jaba Ioseliani, was still preparing to use force if need be.



Weather-beaten: trapped lorries crowding the road between Toulouse and Carcassonne in southwestern France yesterday after some of the worst snowfalls in the area in recent years. Three people died and hundreds were stranded in the bitter cold. Some areas suffered over-night snowfalls of between 20 and 50 inches which brought the region to a standstill. The palm-lined beaches of Biarritz on the Atlantic coast were hit by their first blizzards for eight years. Electricity cuts have affected 50,000 people. One of those who died was a Peruvian woman, aged 66, who suffocated after her car was buried in a snowdrift near Boulou. A man was buried to death when his house in St Cyprien caught fire after he lit a candle because of the electricity cuts, and a woman was killed when her car skidded on an icy road. (Reuters)

Hungary manoeuvres to avoid trap set by Yugoslav collapse

BUDAPEST is trying to bridge the ancient divide between East and West. President Goncz of Hungary talks about the difficulties to Anne McElvoy

accusations that Hungary is siding with the "old Axis powers" of Germany, Austria and Italy against Serbia.

It is in Serbia's interests to make an enemy of Hungary and in Hungary's interests not to fall into this role.

"Hungary is the country most affected by the conflict between Croatia and Serbia", Mr Goncz said. "We have vital economic links to Serbia, so recognition was certainly not intended to be an anti-Serbian move for us. It is simply a recognition of the way things feed."

However, the country has had a thousand years of dealings with the southern Slav states and knows that its own future is affected by the turbulent Balkans. "We have no interest in having a bleeding and desperate Croatia on our border, nor a bleeding and desperate Serbia," the president insisted.

President Goncz admits that there is tension, albeit "verbal", with Slobodan Milosevic's Serbia. On the Serbian side, this verbal tension has taken the form of

measure up to the standards of the West. At the same time, it casts nervous glances over its shoulder to see what Serbia, Croatia and Ukraine are up to. Yet Hungarian enthusiasm for a new start is complete and uninhibited.

President Goncz talks in the up-beat, cheerfully insistent tones of a team coach at half-time, alternately praising and bullying his people to motivate them through

the hard times. A writer and translator who was imprisoned after the 1956 uprising, President Goncz labours in the shadows of Vaclav Havel and Lech Walesa in Central Europe's fame stakes. But his gentle manner and conciliatory message have made him a popular figure at home. As a liberal, he has had a sometimes strained relationship with Jozsef Antall, his conservative prime minister.

Mr Antall favoured a law enabling those Hungarians who helped suppress the 1956 uprising to be tried for treason. Parliament passed it but President Goncz refused to sign it and referred it to the constitutional court for a ruling as to whether activities such as those of the secret police could be declared treasonous in retrospect. A decision is due at the end of the month.

1956 remains a deep trauma

and the appetite for revenge is still strong among those who lived through the events. Once again, President Goncz is trying to steer a course between parties and interest. "We should not repeat the mistakes of the previous regime by resorting to the state as an instrument of revenge," he said.



Goncz: verbal tension with Serbian leader

Serb squatters home in on Croat town

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ILOK, CROATIA

HOUSE-HUNTING is a haphazard affair in the eastern Croatian town of Ilok these days. Rattling the gate of a locked house, a Serb refugee said: "You don't get a key, you just break in."

A Croat woman resident said: "This is robbery, they are settling this place by force, and we are frightened. They call in the middle of the night, they threaten, and say, 'Why haven't you gone yet? If you identified me,' she added, "they'll kill me for telling you this."

Croats who remain in the town on the banks of the Danube, 70 miles west of Belgrade, occupied by the Yugoslav army, say they are prevented from leaving, except if they are going for good, and they say they are

even prevented from making contact with their families who have fled. Meanwhile, refugee Serbs, who want only to return to their own homes, to begin to occupy empty Croat houses in the town.

On October 17 last year, a deal between the local authorities and the Yugoslav army saved Ilok from being destroyed like the nearby regional capital, Vukovar. About 3,000 Croats temporarily left the town fearing that unruly Serb militias would move in behind the army, killing and looting as they came.

They thought they were going for the weekend, "one man who stayed said. They did not expect that Serb refugees who had fled from

their own homes in other parts of the republic would soon be moving into theirs. "About 3,000 have settled," Vladislav Stepanec, the army's local information officer, said. "We made a list of empty houses and gave it to the new civilian authorities." He added: "They are in charge of distribution and, although the army has the last say, in all matters here you had better go and ask them about it."

But a visit to the Ilok offices of the self-proclaimed Serbian government of Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem proved disappointing. "There is no one here to day," a surly secretary said, adding, "and I am not expecting anyone."

About a quarter of a mil-

lion Serb refugees from all parts of Croatia are passing the winter in temporary accommodation. The Serb authorities in areas they control in eastern Croatia have encouraged them to come to settle to consolidate places such as Ilok. Draconian catch-all laws have been passed to prevent Croat residents from returning.

Their need for settlers is clear. Out of a pre-war population of 7,500 in Ilok, only 500, according to the army, were Serbs. The second largest community after the Croats were about 1,900 Slovaks, the descendants of agricultural workers who came looking for employment in the region's vineyards in the 19th century and who remain today.

Jet lacked warning system

London: Air Inter, whose A320 twin jet crashed in France killing 87 on Monday, is the only airline which has not fitted a ground proximity warning system to tell the pilot he was heading for disaster. (Harvey Elliott writes).

The instrument is mandatory for all British commercial aircraft but it is not compulsory on aircraft registered in France.

Airbus A320 experienced difficulties approaching the runway at Strasbourg and got false readings from electronic signals beamed from the ground, crash investigators learned yesterday.

Danes to vote

Copenhagen: Denmark will hold a referendum on European political union. Poul Schluter, the prime minister, has announced. At the European Community summit, Denmark agreed to closer union within the EC, provided that it could hold referendums on political union and a single currency later.

General sacked

Istanbul: General Hamid Gul, a senior Pakistani military officer who has gained support from Muslim extremist leaders for his fundamentalist views, has been dismissed for refusing to accept an appointment as head of an engineering complex.

Kurds raided

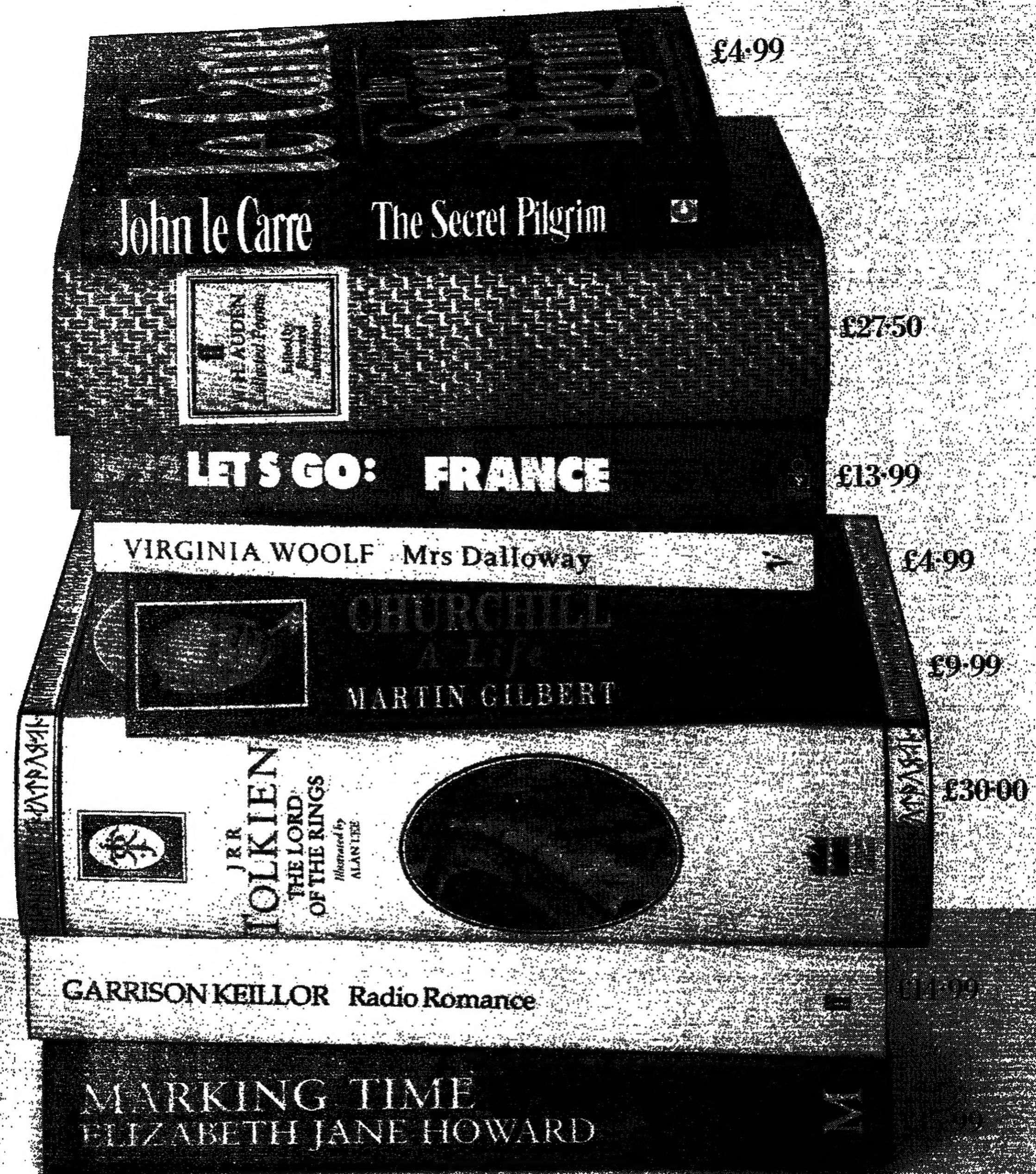
Ankara: Turkish aircraft have been attacking Kurdish rebels in southeastern Turkey for two weeks, a senior officer said. The attacks appeared part of a drive to weaken the guerrillas before they launch a spring offensive. (Reuters)

Naval pullout

Hanoi: Russia will send a military delegation to Hanoi in April or May to negotiate a pullout from Cam Ranh bay. And it will withdraw all former Soviet military advisers and dependents, a Russian diplomat said. (Reuters)

Estate agents

Berlin: More than two million claims have been filed from people seeking to recover real estate and other property in eastern Germany. (AFP)



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Zairean soldiers crush mutiny against Mobutu

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE IN KINSHASA

TROOPS loyal to President Mobutu of Zaire put down a mutiny early yesterday, leaving two people dead. Rebel soldiers, whom officials said came from the 312th battalion based at the Seta training camp for airborne troops south of Kinshasa, had seized the radio station here overnight, broadcasting calls for the resignation of President Mobutu, Nguzi Kari-Bond, the prime minister, and his government.

They also wanted the resumption of a national conference on democracy which Mr Nguzi had cancelled at the weekend, leading to street protests and widespread demonstrations among opposition parties. The defence minister, Ngbanda Nzambo Ko Anumba, said the rebel "adventurers" fled from the

radio station before loyalist troops moved in, but "some of them fell into the net of the security forces". The rebels, said officially to number 29, used a Coca-Cola delivery lorry to get on to the premises. One munitionner and one civilian guard were killed during the operation, the radio said when it resumed normal broadcasting under the control of the military.

Mr Ngbanda said that the rebels had forced a military journalist to read their statements over the radio, but dismissed their demands as "inane". In working-class areas of Kinshasa, residents danced in the streets and turned their radios up full blast during the occupation of the radio station, according to witnesses. Camp Seta, close to Njili airport, saw the

start of rioting by disgruntled troops late in September last year, which grew into pillage and havoc. That level of unrest led to military intervention by France and Belgium, the former colonial power, which evacuated hundreds of foreign nationals.

Central Kinshasa was almost deserted yesterday morning, apart from military checkpoints outside key buildings and at main road junctions which did not appear to have been reinforced. Witnesses said that outlying parts of the capital had also become very quiet.

The French government said yesterday, in a first reaction to the mutiny, that "the resumption of the national conference is the only way to restore calm" in Zaire. A day earlier, the 12 nations of the European Community suspended aid in protest at Mr Nguzi's decision to call off the debate.

Mr Nguzi said the conference could lead to tribal warfare and the partition of the country. His decision came after pro-government delegates made an unsuccessful attempt to change what they called the "geopolitical" representation of the conference, arguing that some Zairean states were favoured unduly.

In their broadcast, the ministers called on France, Belgium and the United States to intervene to "prevent civil war" in Zaire. The takeover of the radio station was said to

alleged threat to the unity of India which is posed by Kashmiri separatists. The present plan is for the procession to travel from Jammu to Srinagar, the capital of the predominantly Muslim Kashmiri valley. The security forces have said that they will not be able to guarantee the safety of those taking part.

The procession is headed by Murli Joshi, the president of the BJP, who plans to raise the Indian flag at Lal Chowk in the centre of Srinagar on Sunday, an area regarded as a stronghold of armed militants. There were signs last night that the party might agree on measures to defuse tensions rather than create another crisis across northern India. A *hartal yatra* (chariot journey) by the BJP in late 1990 led to widespread violence across the north, in which hundreds of people, mostly Muslims, were killed.

The incident, in which the driver of the bus also died and 30 people were injured, came a day after the government gave a warning that there could be serious trouble once the marchers, who set out from southern India last month, reached Punjab. It had earlier appealed to the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the official opposition in parliament, to call off the procession because it could spark renewed religious clashes throughout the north.

The victims were travelling in a seven-bus convoy when they came under attack from Sikh separatists using automatic rifles. Several leading members of the BJP were in the vehicles. The executive of the party, which is calling its procession *ekta yatra* (journey of unity), meets in the Kashmiri city of Jammu today to decide its response to government requests to call off the procession.

The *ekta yatra* set off with the aim of highlighting the



be the work of only 29 soldiers, but is likely nevertheless to make the few foreigners who stayed on after the September riots rethink their position, observers said.

Zaire, which is rich in mineral and other natural resources, has been ruled with an iron fist by President Mobutu for 26 years. The national conference, which began in August but has seen previous lengthy suspensions, has been marked by increasingly strong opposition to the

Leading article, page 15

Whites prepare to bid parliament farewell

FROM GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

AFRICA'S last white parliament convenes in a splendid colonial building beneath Table mountain today for what may be its last session.

In his opening address, President de Klerk is expected to outline proposals for sharing power with the black majority, thereby sounding the death knell for the racist institution that has governed South Africa since the country's birth in 1910. As he delivers his speech, thousands of blacks mobilised by the African National Congress will march near the parliament building to demand a prompt transfer of power to

an interim government and a constituent assembly.

Mr de Klerk has conceded the principle of sharing power and is likely to elaborate on his plans for bringing blacks into government at legislative and executive levels as quickly as possible. The consensus is that an interim arrangement, pending a post-apartheid constitution and general elections, should be approved in time for blacks to take their places in parliament in a year's time. The present tri-cameral system, instituted in 1983, is reserved for whites, Coloureds and Indians.

Members of the ruling National party say the president cannot be expected to match the drama of his two preceding opening addresses, when he announced the " unbanning" of the ANC and the abolition of apartheid legislation. But Mr de Klerk may be relied on to produce at least one more rabbit out of his hat — the concept of a multiracial interim government.

A signal of parliament's waning authority was an announcement this week that from February 10 it would not sit on Mondays and Tuesdays to allow members to participate in negotiations with the ANC and others.

With the exception of the far-right Conservative party, every parliamentary party has representatives on committees established by the negotiating forum. The Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) Parliament remains the sovereign legislative body, but it is bound to liaise with Codesa on any important new laws.

Steve Tshwete, a senior member of the ANC executive committee, summed up the ANC's views on the matter: "It is time for the people to demand, as did Oliver Cromwell of the Long Parliament in Britain: 'In the name of God, go!'"

Japan makes U-turn to buy from Detroit

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IT MAY not make much of a dent in the enormous Japanese trade deficit with the United States, but Japan's parliament is to buy two more

American cars, its leadership abilities in serious doubt, he confronts the prospect of an unruly barrage of opposition questions on a series of political corruption scandals involving his close political allies and members of the Liberal Democratic party that heads.

Mercifully for Mr Miyazawa, Japan's opposition parties are effectively impotent in the political scheme of things, since they have not held power for more than 36 years and appear to have no likelihood of doing so. His more serious worry, however, is the fact that once the session gets underway next week, his

qualifications as a head of state will come under severe scrutiny from the liberal party's real power behind the throne.

Noboru Takeshita, the former prime minister, and Shin Kanemaru, the deputy president of the party, will spend the next few weeks judging whether Mr Miyazawa is fit to continue heading the party. Mr Miyazawa has also watched his popularity plummet in the eyes of an electorate that suspects him of being not only feeble and inept but also corrupt.

Sikhs kill Hindus in attack on bus

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SIKH gunmen shot dead three Hindus travelling in a convoy of buses through Punjab yesterday on their way to join a mass march to the Kashmiri valley. The killings sharply increased religious tensions as troops and paramilitary police tightened security in the two northern Indian states.

The incident, in which the driver of the bus also died and 30 people were injured, came a day after the government gave a warning that there could be serious trouble once the marchers, who set out from southern India last month, reached Punjab. It had earlier appealed to the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the official opposition in parliament, to call off the procession because it could spark renewed religious clashes throughout the north.

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The *ekta yatra* set off with the aim of highlighting the

Priests say police ignored axe gang

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO Roman Catholic priests have accused South African police officers of killing a group of about 20 men, armed with pangas and axes, to board a black commuter train at a Johannesburg station on Tuesday night. For the police, Captain Eugene Opperman said that the claims were being investigated, but that it

was not an offence merely to possess a dangerous weapon.

The allegations came as police reported yesterday that during the previous 24 hours nine people had been killed, either hacked to death or thrown off moving trains, in the Johannesburg area. During the past 18 months, at least 146 people have been killed.

Leading article, page 15

Call to prayer falls foul of Holy City authorities

Jews sound off at Muslims

THERE are few sounds in the Middle East quite so romantic as the dawn wail of a muezzin calling Muslim worshippers to their first prayer of the day. But like any other religious manifestation in the city holy to the three great monotheistic faiths, even that seemingly simple act yesterday became embroiled in the latest political row pitting Jew against Muslim.

In the second attack to curb mounting guerrilla attacks this year, Israeli helicopter gunships yesterday blasted positions of Lebanese Muslim guerrillas in south Lebanon, wounding at least one gunman.

In an unprecedented decision, the Jerusalem magistrate court yesterday found the muezzin of the Sheikh Jarrah mosque next to the American Colony hotel in the Arab East Jerusalem guilty of "making unreasonable noise" and causing distress to

the volume of the dawn appeal to worship has become a political issue in the Muslim-Jewish confrontation in Jerusalem, Richard Beeston reports

Jewish neighbours a few hundred yards away in the Israeli half of the city. The court fined the defendant £55 and was bound over in the sum of £500 that he would not repeat the offence within the next three years.

The conviction was the result of a police investigation into allegations that the tiny mosque, with notoriously powerful loudspeakers attached to its minaret, deliberately turned up the volume of its prayer call five times a day across the old "green line" towards the Jewish residential districts, also at night and during the Jewish Sabbath.

The Jewish Orthodox communities alleged that the volume had increased substantially since the Palestinian intifada began four years ago, and police armed with sound-monitoring equipment found the muezzin guilty of breaking the city's noise regulations.

"In addition to Jews, we received complaints about the noise from Muslims and Christians as well, although they were too afraid to give

their names," said Amir Cheshin, the head of the Jerusalem municipality's department of Arab affairs.

However, his comments will do little to ease Muslim anger, particularly since the ruling was made on the same day that Islamic leaders from around the world gathered in Marrakesh to meet King Hassan of Morocco to discuss ways of preserving Jerusalem's Muslim heritage.

The defendant in yesterday's case said he would appeal against the decision and ask Wakf, the Muslim religious administration, to intervene on his behalf. "The city is so sensitive that the court is no place to settle problems like this," said Moshe Amirav, a city councilor. "These arguments should be settled by agreement or else you will lead the city to an explosive situation."

Washington to impose tough restrictions on aid to Israel

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE Bush administration last night was expected to set out tough, new guidelines on economic assistance to Israel; that it is helping to fund Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The unprecedented restrictions, on Israel's request for \$10 billion (£5.5 billion) in loan guarantees over five years for absorbing immigrants, were due to be presented to Zalman Shoval, the Israeli envoy to Washington, when he met James Baker,

when he

Ready, willing, disabled

Alan Franks talks to Alf Morris, the MP whose lifelong battle on behalf of a still-oppressed minority is about to enter a crucial new phase

Alf Morris has been here before. In 1970, with a general election imminent and not much time left in the Parliamentary session, his 33-clause bill, aimed at improving the rights of the disabled, seemed certain to founder. "Never mind," he reasoned. "If the drafting of the bill manages to start a public debate, perhaps it will have served its purpose."

As it turned out, the bill attracted a seldom matched degree of all-party support, developed a momentum of its own, and, before the House disbanded for the June election, had matured into the historic Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

A week today, a new and no less ambitious bill, brought by Mr Morris as a private member, and intended to outlaw discrimination against the disabled, mental and physical, is due to receive its second reading in the Commons. Its aim is to guarantee for disabled people similar legal rights to those available to women and black people under the sex and race equality laws. It would make it illegal for anyone to use disability as a reason for withholding equal treatment, whether in housing, employment, education, transport, leisure, or any other public and private services.

Because of the election, such a measure could only become law with the backing of the government's business managers. Once again, time is running out, and the odds seem to be against an enactment this session.

Mr Morris is having no such pessimism. You might expect nothing less from the presenter of a bill which enshrines ideals he has held dear for his 28 Parliamentary years. What hearses the Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, most of all, and makes him back to 1970 a plausible precedent, is the fact that Nicholas Scott, the minister for social security and disabled persons, has declared his own attitude to be one of benign neutrality. "Six months ago," Mr Morris says, "or even as recently as last September, you could have described the government's attitude as one of malign hostility. Instead of favouring legislation that would make discrimination a breach of the law, they wanted to educate opinion, and to change the public's approach by exhortation."

These words are delivered in a drawl and weary way, as if the time it takes to say them, and the predictability of their conclusion, describes the futile grind of such

an approach. Mr Morris sounds like a man who has not so much run out of liberalism, but grown tired of its ineffectiveness.

He is now aged 63, full of the patient reproach and dogged humanity that can be found in Labour members of his generation. Having been chairman of the world committee appointed to draft the "Charter for the 1980s" for disabled people, he is also painfully well placed to assess the gap between the aspirations at the start of the decade, and the present reality. He almost seems to have lost his faith in persuasion.

"I have pointed out that on the single issue of car seat belts, the government spent more than £7 million — and I am talking of 1980s prices, not today's — trying to 'educate and exhort', and it failed, and so they had to legislate. Now, they haven't spent anything like that amount in trying to change public attitudes towards people with disabilities, yet they still insisted that that [education] remained the way forward."

The parallels between 1970 and now, although extensive, turn out to be largely academic. They also mask a critical difference: whereas the 1970 Act addressed questions of rights and benefits for the first time in a comprehensive way, the present bill is designed to free the disabled from such "further disabilities" as bad employers or denial of physical access to shops, public transport and buildings. Its targets are discrimination by design and by neglect.

"It is simply outrageous for a shipping line to return a deaf woman's cheque because they don't think that a particular holiday is suitable for her," Mr Morris fumes. "That, to me, is the ultimate in concession, and it is revolting; or for a woman who has been given a particularly responsible post by a police authority to be said, 'You've got the job, but you can't join the pension scheme.' Or for someone who has worked for a company for 20 years and then is suddenly disabled to be suddenly pushed to the back of the longest queue in the country [for jobs] just because his employers refuse to carry out the modifications needed for him at work. Or for a 16-year-old girl getting a job as a filing clerk, only to be sacked on her first morning because she has one hand missing."

Mr Morris only grows impatient if the discussion dwells too long on the state of existing legal remedies for such cases. The



Sport sets the standard: the Southport Sharks tackle Lodmoor Raiders in a game of wheelchair rugby during last year's Disabled Games at Stoke Mandeville

impression is that there is really no point in discussing them because they do not exist. "The whole point is that, whatever people say, it is not illegal to discriminate. For example, if Earl Spencer wants to deny admission to his home by people in wheelchairs, there is nothing to stop him doing so."

To say that there was no legislation at all on the statute books before 1970 is not technically true.

There had been the 1944 Disabled Persons Employment Act, now effectively defunct through the failure of firms to comply with its provisions. One of the most important of these was the requirement that any firm with 20 or more staff should have among

them at least 3 per cent with a registered disability. In 1987 The Times reported that barely more than a quarter were meeting the requirement. Today, the Disability Information and Advice Service in London says that the number of companies complying with the quota is "almost none".

As for the government itself, not one of its 25 principal departments was meeting the target.

Of course, that Act is not binding on the Crown (an immunity which Mr Morris's bill seeks to remove), yet government departments have none the less agreed in theory to observe the

quotas. Even the BBC, often cited as a benevolent employer, found room for a mere 85 registered disabled in a staff of almost 30,000.

There have been some efforts to enforce the 1944 Act.

Mr Morris concedes, "but all the organisations for the disabled with which I have dealt tell me that the law is perpetually defunct. There

was some staggering evidence in a recent enquiry by one of the organisations that 6 per cent of employers actually said they would never take on a disabled person.

Now that is the kind of thing which is a challenge, and which demands legal action. After all, a

disability is a handicapping thing, and our task is to reduce the handicapping effect of it. If we are prepared to turn a blind eye to outright discrimination, I believe it detracts from our international reputation."

Mr Morris believes that although the 1970 Act meant that Britain "led the world" in disability legislation, we have slipped from the front of the field to the very back; and that countries which were once motivated by our example — he cites America, Canada, Australia and France — are now at the leading edge.

If the Morris bill were to become law, it would be the first time that the term "civil rights" has found its way into the statute book, the

full title being the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) bill. This, its presenter argues, is significant in its own right: "It represents a positive way of approaching the problem. It is a matter not of saying what we are against, but what we are for; and what we are for is citizenship and social equality for disabled people."

One of the bill's most important goals is the establishment of a Disablity Commission, able to investigate not only individual complaints about discrimination, but also more general areas where discrimination is suspected. And it would have the power to impose penalties, and take employment cases to industrial tribunals.

The bookman's dilemma

Book Aid forces our literary editor into some difficult choices

Like a lot of others, our household has more books than leisure in which to read them. So Book Aid, which hopes to have collected up to a million books this week for Russia and the other former Soviet republics, seemed at first like a godsend. Instead of taking books to the bank, we would take unwanted books to the nearest Waterstone's.

A literary editor spends much of the day sending books out to reviewers; it is not a job for unduly possessive personalities. Our house is full of books, and it was the work of a few minutes to dig up a box of political books to interest a Russian, because their function is really utilitarian.

We began with titles such as *The Soviet Union and Terrorism*, *Campaigns against Western Defence* or *How Democracies Perish*, books which will help peoples trying to make sense of their past. There was a fat volume of selections from perhaps the favourite philosopher of all the former communist countries, Hayek. As a sop to any old socialists left in Russia, we added Mamay Shmelev's memoirs.

After that, however, it got harder. My wife, Sarah, contributed a book about nutrition for children which may, alas, be of only academic interest to most Kustimists. But when it came to English literature, we could not agree. Other possessions are pooled after marriage, only books preserve an absolute claim on



Spreading the word eastward: organisers of Book Aid with (second from right) Daniel Johnson

each partner's loyalty. The truth is that great books — literature, history, philosophy — are hard to give away because over the years they become part of oneself, a reassuring presence on the shelves.

Still, we found a few *belletrist* letters we could spare. My wife gave a Colin Thubron, I gave a Martin Amis; we agreed on two paperback volumes of Coleridge and Trollope, plus one of Klimt's drawings, only because all three were duplicates. I added a few German books. After a very few more items that I have now forgotten, we called a halt.

The worst of it is that I have often regretted occasions when I rashly gave away, lent or sold books. They are always the ones that are most missed. More than once I ended up buying the same book twice. The choicer and most recondite books, alas, almost never cross one's path again.

I once sold the best part of my small library of chess books for the price of a meal.

COLLECTIONS

National Book Aid Week runs to Sunday.

Books may be handed in at Heffers, 20 Trinity St, Cambridge; Blackwell, 50 Broad St, Oxford; H.J. Lear, Royal Arcade, Cardiff; Hamnick's, Farnham (both branches); Ouakar's, Salisbury and the following branches of Waterstone's: London: Charing Cross Rd, Croydon, Covent Garden, Hampstead, High St, Kensington, Kingston upon Thames, Notting Hill Gate, Richmond, Wimbledon; Aberdeen; Bath (475 Milsom St); Birmingham; Bournemouth; Brighton; Bristol (The Galleria); Buntingford; Canterbury; Cheltenham; Colchester (University of Essex); Edinburgh (Princes St and George St); Eastbourne; Exeter; Glasgow; Princes Sq; Guildford; Luton; Lancaster; Leeds (97 Albion St); Liverpool (52 Bold St); Maidstone; Manchester (Deansgate and St Ann's Sq); Newcastle; Norwich (St Stephen's St); Nottingham; Perth; Preston; Sheffield; Shrewsbury; Stratford upon Avon; Swindon; Worcester; York.

Larger book donations: Book Aid warehouse (071 713 7281). Please do not send books to The Times. Cheques payable to Book Aid may be sent c/o Waterstone's Ltd, 37 Ixworth Place, London SW3 3QH.

Donors of money and volunteers will be entered into a draw.

First prize, return flight to St Petersburg or Moscow, donated by Barry Martin Travel.

Second prize, case of wine donated by Oddbins.

Five runners-up, £20 book vouchers each, donated by Waterstone's. Winners will be contacted by February 14.

DANIEL JOHNSON

The only compromise we've made

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AFRICA'S PATRONS DEPART

Pliny was wrong: out of Africa always something old. President Mobutu of Zaire was back in the news again yesterday when another bid to topple his regime was ended by those few palace guards still loyal to his fading cause. Mr Mobutu, a dictator for more than two decades, has been holding revolt at bay by promising his people free elections, but these promises have proved as empty as hopes of winter snow in his tropical capital, Kinshasa.

Since September, Mr Mobutu's grip on power has looked increasingly tenuous. His underpaid soldiers have run amok, Western technicians have fled the country and the international lending institutions have long given up hope of retrieving all the good money they have been pouring after bad. Zaire, like many another Cold War client state, has been abandoned by its patrons among the superpowers and international bankers. Chaos has ensued.

The Mobutu regime was one of the many beneficiaries of the Cold War. It will be one of many casualties of its conclusion. Zaire in the parlance of the American State Department, was a "strategic asset" to be denied to the Soviet Union. With the end of colonial rule in Africa, it seemed imperative to Washington to prop up the successor states. Zaire's rich mineral resources had to be kept in friendly hands, which soon, inevitably, meant corrupt ones.

The country became an important conduit for aid to the Unita forces fighting the Soviet-backed government in Angola. The Americans and the former colonial power, Belgium, kept international banks sweet while the French lent paratrophs whenever a provincial rebellion threatened to dismember this artificial state. There were also suspicions that the Soviet Union backed coups in the late 1970s to boost prices. As war scare stories multiplied the Soviets would make a killing selling minerals.

With Western backing, Mr Mobutu built himself 11 palaces and sent billions of dollars in non-commercial loans to Swiss bank accounts. His subjects were left with an average income equivalent to £130 a year, a woeful mortality rate and a government that spent more on presidential perks than on housing, health or education. The rest of the money was spent on the usual Third World

idiocies — nationalisation and prestige projects — creating profits for the ruling class. Now the American administration, prodded by Congress, has reduced its economic assistance and withdrawn military aid. Even relations with Belgium have swiftly deteriorated.

This pattern has been repeated across the continent. For years Washington feared that a communist dominated ANC government would arrive in South Africa on the back of a Cuban tank column. Ethiopia and Somalia took advantage of global naval competition between the superpowers to lease their coastlines in return for modern weapons. With bloated arsenals, these two countries proceeded to fight each other, swap patrols and turn their guns on their own rebelling subjects. Now the Cold War is over both have been left to their own devices, engulfed by famine and anarchy.

Meanwhile the oil-rich Arab states no longer feel the need to buy African votes at the United Nations to secure the passing of anti-Israel resolutions. As apartheid in South Africa is swept aside, the front-line states are no longer the lucky beneficiaries of white, liberal solicitude, aid and Soviet support. Time was when African states could rely on a post-colonial superpower patronage to build their infrastructure, or at least subsidise their elites. One superpower has collapsed and the other is devoting its energies to propping it up. Africa must look to the once vilified multi-national companies and, even to South Africa for sponsorship, and it will be painful.

The West has come late to accept that poverty neither excuses nor justifies tyranny, torture or corruption," in the words of Britain's aid minister, Lynda Chalker. The political habits of African dictatorships can no longer be dismissed as a legacy of colonialism. Too much water, and blood, has flowed down the Congo for that apology to wash any more. The blame lies with leaders who spend more of their national income on guns than butter, and on outsiders who patronised them with their support and aid. Western governments are at last making assistance conditional on political and economic reform. If Africans wish to call this neo-imperialism, so be it. The time has come for straight talking.

PARADISE MISLAI

The town of Milton Keynes is 25 years old this week. Some congratulation must be in order for those who have driven to coat the Buckinghamshire countryside with grids and plazas. Of all this century's attempts at Utopian settlement, Milton Keynes is perhaps the least arrogant and the most flexible. But the anniversary is none the less a memorial to a tradition of social-engineering that must be seen as dead and buried. Hardy, however, to be mourned.

Milton Keynes was the last desperate throw of a generation of British planners who were disastrous of the traditional British towns and cities and had the political power and public money to fashion the environment to their will. Humans, they believed, would be more contented in settlements designed as architectural unities rather than by developing and enlarging existing villages, towns and cities.

While such idealism had its roots in the garden city movement of Raymond Unwin and others at the turn of the century, it flowered with the postwar new-town movement. An eagerness to force large numbers of people out of city centres, shared with authoritarians in less democratic societies, led to the desolation and dereliction of many of Britain's inner cities and the spoliation of millions of acres of countryside.

From Crawley and Corby to Stevenage, Washington and Cumbernauld, new-town 'bubs' became a widespread syndrome. Residents, many moved compulsorily and callously, found themselves in single-class towns with poor services and a lack of the communal continuity vital to a humane neighbourhood. Planners disregarded the subtle gradation of relationships implied by extended families, neighbours and friends.

SING FOR VICTORY

Has the fire-breathing dragon of the valleys lost its singing voice? In anticipation of the Welsh rugby team's next fixture against France, an eminent soprano has been hired to lead the once fearsome terrace choir of Cardiff Arms Park in the singing of the Welsh anthem, *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* (*Land of My Fathers*). Poor results in the last year appear to have affected the supporters' layettes and the Welsh Rugby Union wants Beverley Humphries to stop the rot.

Traditional rugby fans may feel that this takes the fat of "arena opera" one arena too far. The stadiums of the 1990 soccer world cup resounded to the strains of Pavarotti's voice, and Puccini recently made a high-scoring debut at Wembley, in the Royal Opera company's victorious match against Turandot.

The minstrels, warriors and lords of great Snowdon celebrated in the Welsh national anthem would surely hail the WRU's measure as a virtuous bid to revive the glories of the Welsh singing voice. Song has long been an expression of beleaguered nationhood in Wales, part of the country's moral and cultural fabric. Formal assemblies of bards, *eseddodau*, have been held in one form or another since the seventh century, for the conferring of degrees upon musicians and poets.

Gerald of Wales, the 12th century chronicler, praised the precious talents of the native singers he encountered in his native country and their taste for ambitious harmonies. "In their musical concord they do not sing in unison, like the inhabitants of other countries, but in many different parts."

and their juxtaposition with local institutions and services. The architect was god and history was the devil.

Milton Keynes was a final attempt to prove that this idealism could triumph over its critics. It was designed to be a suburban city, some 30 square miles of Buckinghamshire countryside devoted to 250,000 people, every one a car driver. Real care was shown for landscaping, collective services and "desire lines". On its own terms Milton Keynes has not failed, though its public architecture sadly coincided with the barren declining years of the Modern Movement, bequeathing the central area an awful frigidity and bleakness. But there is no reason why, over the coming decades, Milton Keynes should not prove more popular than the concrete monuments to working-class "decarving" of the north of England.

Distillation with such towns today must not lead to a reactionary disillusion with town and country planning as such. The British landscape needs strategic planning if it is not to become a continuous suburban sprawl. Indeed the cardinal sin of the new-towns concept lay in its abuse of both the old towns it neglected and the country it spoiled. The cities of Britain have ample space to meet demand for housing and commercial development, not least at a time of severe property recession. Infilling smaller towns and villages can supplement such demand.

But Britain's countryside, already more cramped than that of any other of the larger nations of Europe, must be safeguarded. Modern planning need not be Utopian to be emphatic. City dwellers and country dwellers have a like interest in protecting the rolling acres of rural Britain from another Milton Keynes.

he observed, "so that in a company of singers, which one very frequently meets in Wales, you will hear as many different parts and voices as there are performers".

The musical excellence of which Gerald spoke has taken the occasional knock. Elizabeth I, a Tudor queen of Welsh descent, had to intervene in the 1560s to save the *eseddodau* from "the vagrant and idle persons naming themselves minstrels, rithors, and barthes... lately grown into such an intolerable multitude".

By the second half of the 19th century, however, choral singing had established deep roots in the Nonconformist chapels and supplied a stirring soundtrack to the rise of Wales as a rugby-playing nation. It is this culture which the WRU is seeking to revive.

The union is also embarked on a different but related matter, hardly less important: the revival of Welsh rugby itself after the disasters of 1991. A three-month tour of Australia included an ignominious 63-6 defeat at the hands of the Wallabies, followed by a deplorable record in the world cup.

This state of affairs was bucked unexpectedly last Saturday when Wales defeated Ireland at Lansdowne Road, the team's first victory in the Five Nations Championship since 1989. Denied their national anthem by the Irish Rugby Union, the Welsh players delivered their own impromptu version of the song. It was this experience, they said, which roused them to victory. Given a stadium of lusty (and soon-to-be well trained) singers, who knows what sporting glories might once more lie ahead?

Standard fees for legal-aid work

From the Lord Chancellor

Sir, Your leader, "Price of justice" (January 22), recommended that I should submit the question of standard fees for legal-aid work in criminal cases in magistrates' courts for the consideration of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. Obviously the Royal Commission will consider this matter insofar as it may affect the subject of its remit. When it reports I shall consider its views with great interest. Meanwhile, Parliament has charged me with the responsibility for determining professional remuneration for legal aid.

You accept that the rising cost of legal aid must be brought under control. Standard fees will help to do this. Over the last five years, the number of cases dealt with under criminal legal aid in the magistrates' courts has risen by 19 per cent. The retail price index has risen by 33 per cent. The average payment per case has risen by 81 per cent. Costs cannot continue to increase at this rate.

The magistrates' courts hear over a million criminal cases a year (excluding summary motoring cases). Over 600,000 of these were legally aided in 1990. Most cases are short and relatively inexpensive. They are well suited to being paid on a standard basis.

Standard fees for relatively standard blocks of work are not a new approach for lawyers or for others doing professional work. They will still be related to the amount of work done, and will maintain overall the current level of expenditure on criminal legal aid in the magistrates' courts.

The level of these fees must be set to encourage a sufficient number of solicitors to do the work, and to allow them to do the work properly. Special provisions will apply for special cases and accordingly the scheme will not cover all the legally aided cases in the magistrates' courts.

These are matters which I am presently discussing with the Law Society and the Bar. These discussions are not yet completed. As your leader recognises, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 significantly extended the availability

Rail in Europe

From Mr David Hollings

Sir, As one of the joint authors of the Economic Intelligence Unit report on "European Railways — Prospects for the Long Distance Rail Services in the 1990s", I was very dismayed to see one of our conclusions described by M J-P. Loublinoux of French Railways as "total nonsense" (letter, January 14).

It is hardly a controversial conclusion that the substantial costs of investment in new lines capable of handling a frequent service of high-speed trains travelling at speeds of 300kph or more, can be sustained only by attracting significant volumes of new passengers.

Volume growth on a large scale is likely to occur only in corridors between major cities and between points where the high-speed trains can provide travel times of not more than around three hours. There is only a limited number of such corridors within the EC and fewer of them are international.

Far from discounting the success achieved by the TGV Sud Est and Atlantique services, as implied by M Loublinoux, the conclusion in the

Heritage block

From Mr David Bieda

Sir, Jocelyn Stevens's remarks about English Heritage blocking things (report, January 15), certainly rang a bell here, despite the qualifications in his letter (January 16).

This charity plans to complete a model scheme for environmental improvements in city conservation areas and to publicise the results nationally. We have received enthusiastic endorsement from the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Civic Trust, local authorities and others, and substantial financial commitments from the private sector.

The London division of English Heritage was impressed and helpful

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Proposals for teaching art and music

From the President of the Royal Academy of Arts

Sir, To those practising artists who have chosen to spend part of their working lives teaching art in different age groups and had hoped to see the best practice of art education reflected in the curriculum, the National Curriculum Council's consultation report on art (details, January 14) must seem a retreat to an obscurantism invented by academics who view the practice of art with the deepest misgivings.

In the meantime, standard fees will provide control over costs, long overdue, and bring benefits to solicitors by allowing quicker payments and a simplified system for these payments, with consequent benefits to their clients.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES MACKAY,
Lord Chancellor's Office,
House of Lords.
January 22.

From the President of the Law Society

Sir, I welcome your editorial. However, you suggest that solicitors' leaders had been privately exploring "not much beyond 4 per cent" by way of this year's increase in the legal-aid fees. In fact, we expect an increase which is at least sufficient to ensure that legal-aid practitioners' plight is not worsened. The estimate of the likely rise in solicitors' overheads over the next year is a little over 8 per cent. That should be the Lord Chancellor's starting point.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ELY, President,
Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.
January 22.

From Mr P. du P. Langrishe

Sir, I write as a solicitor who did not participate in the "strike" vote (report, January 22) but who does venture from time to time into the local criminal courts. My simplistic contribution to what is a very complicated debate is that, as a defence lawyer, I would not object to working under the handicap of a fixed fee if the prosecution were to be subjected to the same constraint.

Yours faithfully,
P. du P. LANGRISHE,
Symes Robinson & Lee (solicitors),
Manor Office, North Street,
Crediton, Devon.

January 22.

From Mr John Steers

Sir, Simon Rattle's well publicised condemnation (report, January 17) of the National Curriculum Council's proposals for the teaching of music should not be allowed to obscure the fact that the council has advocated a similarly inappropriate emphasis on theory, rather than practice, for art for five to 14-year-olds.

Analysis of the NCC recommendations reveals that the council has retained virtually all the programmes of study detailed in Lord Renfrew's report; but to these have been added a further collection of programmes of study which detail specific knowledge, mainly of the history of art.

Considering the extra complexity of the NCC's proposals, it is difficult to understand why the council believes that its recommendations will "result in a coherent and manageable art curriculum". It is more likely that teachers — particularly non-specialist primary teachers — will find the NCC proposals very difficult to implement without a massive investment.

The three major railways involved, BR, DB (Germany) and SNCF have, for historical reasons, different fares and different operating systems and practices. Inter-railway negotiations would not seem to be a good basis for developing and driving an effective international marketing strategy.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HOLLINGS (Director),
Accent Marketing & Research Ltd.,
Gable House,
14-16 Turnham Green Terrace, W4.

EU report draws heavily from it.

It is also influenced by SNCF's publication of assessments that other domestic routes would yield less successful returns from investment.

We share M Loublinoux's enthusiasm for the high-speed network serving Paris, Brussels, London, Cologne, Frankfurt and Amsterdam.

We suggest, however, that marketing such an international network creates a new type of challenge. It is not self-evident that co-operation between national railways, all of which are presently accountable to their national governments, provides an ideal mechanism for meeting the challenge.

The three major railways involved, BR, DB (Germany) and SNCF have, for historical reasons, different fares and different operating systems and practices. Inter-railway negotiations would not seem to be a good basis for developing and driving an effective international marketing strategy.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID BIEDA (Chairman),
Seven Dials Monument
Company Limited,
1 Shorts Gardens,
Seven Dials, WC2.

January 16.

Decade of Evangelism

From the Bishop of Doncaster and the Bishop of Lichfield

Sir, Clifford Longley's article, "The Decade of Evangelism was never going to work" (January 18), looks pessimistically at the work of the churches for Christian unity and evangelism. There is, however, another way of telling the same story.

It is possible to concentrate on the astonishing improvements in relationships which have taken place between Christians of different denominations; the growth of local co-operation in places where Christians often share together in the administration of baptism, offer each other eucharistic hospitality, share the gift of ministry, care for one another and, most importantly, serve the community together.

It is also possible to look at an entire decade of Evangelism from an entirely different perspective. The decade has never been intended as a high-profile exercise; but more as a steady and consistent recovery of the priority of a faithful proclamation of the good news about Jesus in word and action.

It is misleading to suggest that the call for a Decade of Evangelism was

a patronising attempt on the part of the 1988 Lambeth Conference to reassure evangelicals.

It arose rather out of the urgent concern of bishops from many other parts of the Anglican Communion: a concern from which we in this country have much to learn.

However, what is most strange in Clifford Longley's assessment is his assumption that renewal is somehow a third activity separable from evangelism and unity. The renewal of the visible life of the Church is a constant and never-ending process and will be until the end of time.

The impetus and insight for renewal comes from an understanding of holy scripture, from the Church's attempt through the centuries to live faithful to the gospel, and from the insights of the contemporary world.

In a constant interplay of these, under the power of the holy spirit, the Church is called to renew its life. In the very act of evangelism Christians are to listen before they speak. The holy spirit at work in the world is sometimes ahead of the Church.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM DONCASTER (Chairman, The Council for Christian Unity),

KEITH LICHFIELD (Chairman, The Board of Mission),

The General Synod of the Church of England,

Church House, Great Smith Street, SW1.

January 21.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 7



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 23: The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by the Lord Catto at the Memorial Service for Sir Yue-Kong Pao which was held at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, London SW1 today.

The Princess Royal, Patron, College of Occupational Therapists, this morning attended a Conference on the role of Occupational Therapists in Stroke Rehabilitation at the Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, Upper Warden, Worshipful Company of Loriners this afternoon attended a Court Meeting at which Her Royal Highness was installed as Master of the Company and subsequently attended Dinner at Vinners' Hall, Upper Thames Street, London EC4.

Miss Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will visit Start-rite Shoes, Crown Road, Norwich, at 10.30. As President of Business in the Community, The Prince's Trust and The Prince's Youth Business Trust, he will attend meetings of business leaders at Sentinel House, Surrey Street, Norwich, at 1.00. The Duke of Kent, as Chancellor of Surrey University, will attend a council meeting at the university at 12.30.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Lord Randolph Churchill, statesman, London, 1895; Amadeo Modigliani, painter and sculptor, Paris, 1920; Sir Winston Churchill, prime minister 1940-45, 1951-55, London, 1965.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 23: The Princess of Wales this evening attended the Hong Kong Gala Evening at the Barbican Centre, London EC2. Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Mr Patrick Jephcott were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 23: The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Mrs Peter Troughton at a Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Yue-Kong Pao which was held at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, London SW1, this afternoon.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 23: Princess Alexandra was represented by Sir Angus Ogilvy at the Memorial Service for Sir Yue-Kong Pao which was held at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, London SW1 today.

DEATHS: Lord Randolph Churchill, statesman, London, 1895; Amadeo Modigliani, painter and sculptor, Paris, 1920; Sir Winston Churchill, prime minister 1940-45, 1951-55, London, 1965.

European League for Economic Co-operation

Lord Rippin of Hexham, QC, Chairman of the British section of the European League for Economic Co-operation, presided at a conference held yesterday at Notting Hill Gate, London. Mr Kochi Kane welcomed Lord Clinton-Davis, Lord Cockfield, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Richard QC, Lord Plumbe, MEP, Sir Christopher Tugendhat and Sir Christopher Prout, QC, MEP, who were the speakers.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.R. Alexander and Miss B.A. Stormont
The engagement is announced between David, son of Lord Alexander of Weedon and Mrs Fanny Burton, of Islington, London, and Belinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graeme Stormont, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr S.N. Atherton and Miss L.J. Copeck
The engagement is announced between Stephen Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Atherton, of Eccles, St Helens, Merseyside, and Lucy Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Copeck, of Old Coulson, Surrey.

Mr M.G. Beatty and Miss C.L. Underwood
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs George Beatty, of Norwich and San Diego, and Catherine, elder daughter of Major and Mrs John Underwood, of East Molesey.

Mr J.P. Carroll and Miss H.M. Burrage
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs P.N. Carroll, of Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, and Helen, eldest daughter of Mr R.L. Burrage, of Wollongong, Australia, and Mrs E.M. Burrage, of Sydney, Australia.

Lieutenant L.J. Dowe, RN and Miss A.J. Atkinson
The engagement is announced between Louis, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Dowe, of Pinlinc, and Emily, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tim Abbott, of Blackheath, London.

Mr T.J. Dohm and Dr G.W.P. Barnes
The engagement is announced between Timothy, second son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Dixon, of Oxford, Surrey, and Gillian, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Barnes, of Old Harrow, Essex.

Mr M.J. Elderfield and Miss S.P. Pratt
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Elderfield, of Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire, and Samantha, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pratt, of Carmel, California.

Mr A.C. England and Miss A.K.A. Pridie
The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs P.G. England, and Bupp, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs R.B. Pridie, of Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire.

Mr M.J. Hatch and Miss T.E. Little
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Michael, elder son of Professor and Mrs David Hatch, of Woodland Green, and Tasmin, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George Little, of West Hampstead, London NW.

Mr S.J. Jacobs and Miss E. Romano
The engagement is announced in New York between Simon, son of Sir Anthony and Lady Jacobs, of London, and Eliana, daughter of the late Mr Eli Romano and of Mrs Esther Blaugrund, of Los Angeles.

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The engagement is announced between Sean Noddy, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.P.W. Noddy, of Hunston, Suffolk, formerly Sibson, Bedfordshire, and Helen Louise, daughter of Mr S.N. Gullman, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs J.P. Jolley, of Llanwarne, Herefordshire.

OBITUARIES

Lord Broxbourne, formerly Sir Derek Walker-Smith, Bt, politician and lawyer, died on January 22 aged 81. He was born on April 13, 1910.

LORD Broxbourne was a compelling advocate whether he was appearing in the courts, in the Commons or at Conservative party conferences. He held various ministerial posts under Eden and Macmillan but he will be remembered chiefly as Sir Derek Walker-Smith, an outstanding opponent of Britain's membership of the European Community. He fought against entry with skill, tenacity and wit, always commanding respect and always losing the important votes.

His father was Sir Jonah Walker-Smith, one-time borough engineer at Barrow-in-Furness and city engineer at Edinburgh, who was director of housing at the Ministry of Health — his son's future ministry — before being elected Conservative MP for Barrow. From him Broxbourne inherited his fascination with politics and life-long interest in housing. He was educated at Rossall and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he became secretary of the Union and took a first in modern history. In 1934 he was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple.

His pre-war years were a time of relentless activity. He had written his first novel while still an undergraduate and he proceeded to combine the beginning of a promised legal career with the authorship of six other books, including biographies of three famous lawyers, Lord Reading, Lord Darling and Sir Edward Clarke. He was also part-author of a play and editor of the *English Review*. He contributed regular articles to the old *Sunday Dispatch* and stood unsuccessfully for the London county council.

Although Broxbourne was a strong supporter of Chamberlain's foreign policy he came to realise that war was inevitable. After service in the Inns of Court OTC he obtained a territorial commission in the gunners and pursued his part-time military career with customary enthusiasm. He grew a vast handlebar moustache and insisted on learning to ride under a particularly demanding corporal in the Life Guards, an experience which he always maintained was good training for the rigours of political life.

He ended the war as a lieutenant-colonel and an MP. He had been chosen to contest the safe Conservative seat of Hertford, which he duly won in 1945. This election, which saw the beginning of his political career, marked the end of his father's, for Sir Jonas Walker-Smith lost his seat at Barrow.

In the Commons Broxbourne was soon spotted as a promising newcomer. His legal mind proved useful in harassing the Labour government. He was elected to the 1922 committee of Tory back-benchers, later becoming its chairman. He had to wait until 1955, however, before obtaining office. He had just won the Herts East constituency when he was appointed parliamentary secretary to the Board of Trade by Eden. A year later he became economic secretary to the board. A year later he became economic secretary to the Treasury and by 1957 he was minister of state at the Board of Trade. He did not spend long

there before Macmillan made him minister of health. This was a significant post but did not carry cabinet rank. Broxbourne had to maintain his ministry against Labour attacks but during the Macmillan years there was none of the adversarial atmosphere over the health service which developed later.

He was responsible for the Mental Health Act, a measure which was widely approved as marking a new and more rational approach to mental illness. During this time the hospital building programme was expanded at a respectable rate, polio vaccination achieved notable success and pay and conditions in the health service were reorganised and largely accepted without major disruptions. It was a useful if unspectacular contribution but by 1960 he had had enough.

Broxbourne saw little prospect of obtaining cabinet office and he wanted to make money at the Bar while there was plenty of time. He

had made a considerable sacrifice in 1955 when he entered the government and gave up his practice in the unglamorous field of town planning and local government. Macmillan made no effort to keep him. He appreciated the financial realities and it also gave him the opportunity to bring Enoch Powell back into the government at Broxbourne's ministry. So he sent the retiring minister his best wishes and, always lavish with hereditary honours, included a baronetcy.

in Brighton. By 1972, when Broxbourne voted against his government in the House on the second reading of the European Communities Bill, even the loyalties of his patient constituency association were tested. His executive committee condemned his action and an effort was even made to prevent his adoption for the next general election but this came to nothing. He was, after all, a good constituency MP.

When Britain eventually entered the community he caused some surprise by accepting nomination for the European Parliament at Strasbourg. It was generally thought that he would go there as a wrecker but in fact he proved a highly responsible MEP. Although still believing that British entry involved a damaging loss of sovereignty he also believed that Britain could not withdraw honourably from a treaty into which it had entered and he argued that it could not, in law or in property, release itself from its commitments. He thought Britain's good faith, its respect for treaty obligations and its pledged word were all at stake and he left no doubt about where he stood. From 1975 until he left Strasbourg in 1979 he was chairman of the parliament's legal committee. When he went to the Lords he made an unsuccessful attempt through his Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Bill to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into Britain's domestic law.

Broxbourne left the Commons in 1983, accepted Mrs Thatcher's offer of a life peerage and remained active in public life, speaking in the upper house, writing to the newspapers and maintaining his interest in his special subjects, particularly house building. From 1973 to 1978 he had been chairman of the National House Building Council. His later speeches were predictably less fiery than his earlier efforts as a party-warrior and an anti-maceteer but they were still effective. He once quoted Macmillan's definition of oratory: "Reason generated and made red hot by passion". This was no bad description of Broxbourne's own style in his campaigning days.

He was married in 1938 to Dorothy Etherow of Nowlands Castle, Hants. She survives him with their two daughters and their son, John Joseph Walker-Smith.

BERTRAM RATCLIFFE

Bertram Ratcliffe, MC, first world war escapee and author, died on January 6 aged 92. He was born on March 8, 1893.

AFTER two and a half years as a POW Bertram Ratcliffe escaped in 1917 and out of his prison experience sprang his autobiographical novel, *Idle Warriors* (1935). In 1917 he was side-de-camp to General Allenby; in 1942 he was a liaison officer under General de Gaulle and in peacetime he became chairman of Brothertons, a chemicals manufacturer.

Bertram Ratcliffe was the youngest son of an absentee father, Frederick Ratcliffe. Early encouragement had to come from his mother, Florence. Educated at Harrow and trained at Sandhurst, he jumped from a moving train, walked for 36 hours and crawled under the frontier wire into Holland. On reaching England he was asked to tell his story to King George V and was subsequently awarded the Military Cross. That same year he was posted to Palestine as side-de-camp to General Allenby.

After the war he joined his brother's chemical company which gave him the opportunity to travel extensively in Europe. *Idle Warriors*, the story of a young Corsican soldier.

He is survived by his third wife, Evelyn, a son and two daughters.



1916, still a prisoner, he was promoted captain. In 1917 came his opportunity to escape. While being transferred from one castle to another, he jumped from a moving train, walked for 36 hours and crawled under the frontier wire into Holland. On reaching England he was asked to tell his story to King George V and was subsequently awarded the Military Cross. In 1949 Bertram Ratcliffe was appointed chairman of Brothertons. He retired in 1970, free to convey his lifelong passion for Napoleon in a book that came out in 1981, *Prelude to Fame*, the story of a young Corsican soldier.

He is survived by his third wife, Evelyn, a son and two daughters.

Luncheons

High Sheriff of Greater Manchester

The High Sheriff of Greater Manchester and Mrs Wilson were hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at the Crown Courts, Manchester.

Port Tower Luncheon Club

Mr Derek Piat, General Manager of the Sheraton Park Tower Hotel, and Miss Georgina Sullivan, Public Relations Manager, were the hosts at a monthly luncheon of the Park Tower Luncheon Club held on Thursday, January 22, 1992, in Restaurant 101, Knightsbridge.

The guests were Mr Nicholas Bonham, Miss Anne Naylor, Mr David Wilson, Governor of Hong Kong, and the Rev Gordon Watkins, acting Sub Dean of HM Chapel Royal, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Rebecca Carew, Henrietta Buchanan, Louise Nicholson, Sophie Liddell-Grainger, Nicholas Munro-Ferguson and Peter Liddell-Grainger, Baron Carew van Randwyck was best man.

A reception was held in the State Apartments, St James's Palace.

Major C.P. Norton and Miss S.P.N.C. Joubert

The marriage took place on January 23, at The Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, of Charles Norton, son of Mr and Mrs Norton, of Epsom, Surrey, and Helen Louise, daughter of Mr S.N. Joubert, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs J.P. Jolley, of Llanwarne, Herefordshire.

Mr S.J. Noddy and Miss H.L. Gullman

The engagement is announced between Sean Noddy, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.P.W. Noddy, of Hunston, Suffolk, formerly Sibson, Bedfordshire, and Helen Louise, daughter of Mr S.N. Gullman, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs J.P. Jolley, of Llanwarne, Herefordshire.

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The engagement is announced in New York between

6.00 *Ceefax* (2076)
 6.30 *Breakfast News* begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (5007453)
 9.05 *Kilroy*, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on mixed marriages (447365) 9.50 *Hot Chats*: Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray prepare 'bolito' made with salsa di dragoncello and lentils (2222415)
 10.00 *News, regional news and weather* (0412215) 10.05 *Playdays*: For the very young (s) (3122321) 10.25 *Stopit and Tidyup*: Animation, narrated by Terry Wogan (r) (5222785) 10.35 *No Kidding*: Family quiz show (s) (1095424)
 11.00 *News, regional news and weather* 11.05 *Travel Show Extra*: Holiday ideas from Eastbourne, Sardinia, Snowdonia and Morocco (7515415) 11.20 *People Today*: With Nina, Myskow, Nigel Dempster and Russell Grant (5077075)
 1.00 *One O'Clock News and weather* (15859)
 1.30 *Midnighters*, *Rocky* (s) (5222385)
 1.50 *Film*: *Withnail and the Legends* (1972): Fine western, rich on atmosphere and strongly acted, about the relationship between a film director, Christopher Lee (Richard Whiteman) and a young Indian (Freddie Fox). He befriends. Directed by Stuart Miller (57231163)
 3.30 *Cartoons* (r) (569502) 3.50 *Bites*: Ideas on recycling household junk (s) (5322227) 4.05 *Jacqueline*: Down French with the last part of M.J. Robson's *Daizey Pig* (5695037) 4.30 *The Further Adventures of SuperTed* (r) (1517724) 4.30 *Hanger 17*: Variety hosted by Micky Hutton (s) (5040708)
 4.45 *Newsround Extras* (7528322) 5.05 *Grange Hill*: Children's school drama series (Ceefax) (s) (6458897)
 5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (461222)
 6.00 *5 O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford, *Catfe* Weather (811)
 6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (163): Northern Ireland: *Neighbours* 7.00 *Wogan*. The guests are Sue Lawley, Marie-Helene and Alan Coren. Music is provided by Buoyant Music (s) (206237)
 7.35 *Mary and the Helter Skelter*: Comedy series imported from the United States (Ceefax) (s) (3507076), Northern Ireland: *Adventure* Ring of Fire (s) (5222385)
 8.00 *Grace and favour*: The stars of *Are You Being Served?* have been uprooted from the shop. They're to a country mansion. Unfortunately, the jokers are the same. Starring Wendy Richard, John Inman and Mollie Sugden (Ceefax) (s) (52227)
 8.30 *Caught in the Act*: Shirlie Hollie introduces amateur video, cuttakes from home and abroad. (Ceefax) (s) (1982)
 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk, *Catfe*: Regional news and weather (57238)
 9.30 *Love Hurts*: Relative Values. Adam Hart, Zoë Wanamaker and Jane Lapotaire star in the fourth episode of the romantic drama series. Tessa finally agrees to have dinner with Frank. (Ceefax) (s) (515569)
 10.20 *Film*: *Heavy and Low* (1984) starring Paul Newman and Robby Benson. A poignant family drama following the relationship of a hard-working father and his hedonistic son who seem to have nothing in common. Newman also directs. (Ceefax) (5222057), Northern Ireland: *Sportscene* 10.45 *Film*: *Hurry Sundown*



Spelbound: Gloria Swanson cautions William Holden (12.05am).

12.05am *Film*: *Banquet Boulevard* (b/w, 1950)

CHOICE: Showing in tandem with the three-part *Arena* profile, *Say Who's* most celebrated film is an acerbic examination of Hollywood by Hollywood and featuring a raft of cinema greats. Buster Keaton is there and so is H.B. Warner who played Christ in the silent version of *King of Kings*. The directors Erich von Stroheim and Carl D. de Mille play tiny disguised versions of themselves. Above all there is Gloria Swanson, with a triumphantly flamboyant performance as a silent star who has lost her glitz and some of her marbles. William Holden represents the younger generation, as a failed screenwriter who comes under Swanson's spell. In the film's most famous line, Swanson observes: 'I am big, it's the pictures that got smaller.' When *Sunset Boulevard* was made, the cinema was barely half a century old. Already it was paying homage to the potency of its own myths (163000) 1.50 *Behind the Headlines* (r) (5039816). Ends at 2.30



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Yarrow wins £400m order for frigates

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government announced a £400 million order for three more Type 23 frigates for the Royal Navy yesterday. The contract for all three was given to Yarrow Shipbuilders on the Clyde, providing a job boost for Scotland.

There had been intense rivalry for the contract between four yards, all suffering from a drop in orders. One of Yarrow's rivals hinted that the decision involved political considerations. But Tom King, the defence secretary, said Yarrow was the winner "by a very clear margin". Sir Robert Easton, Yarrow's chairman, said: "This order was no handout. It was won against very tough competition."

Four Type 23s have already been accepted into service, although only one, HMS Norfolk, is operational. The other three, HMS Marlborough, Argyll and Lancaster are doing sea trials. Six more frigates, which will be the navy's principal anti-subma-

rine surface force, are currently under construction. The three latest ships are to be named HMS Somerset, Grafton and Sutherland.

Mr King said the decision was "very good news for Glasgow and for Scotland as a whole, and for all the companies concerned with this contract throughout the country". Noel Davies, chief executive of VSEL, the Vickers shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness, suggested that there were political influences involved in the decision, as it meant work for Scotland. "We're very disappointed but we will bid for the next batch of Type 23s," he said.

Roger Vaughan, joint chief executive of Swan Hunter, also voiced disappointment but remained confident of winning other orders.

Announcing the contract in the Commons to cheers from Scottish members on both sides, Mr King said the benefit of the government's competitive tendering policy had been clearly shown in "the extremely keen prices offered, which are significantly lower in real terms than previous ships". For Yarrow, the order would be worth "less than half" the total cost of the three ships, with the rest going to other contractors for specialised equipment.

Martin O'Neill, shadow defence secretary, asked when more Type 23s would be ordered, and pressed Mr King to say what size of frigate and destroyer fleet the government envisaged. Mr King declined.

• About 700 jobs are expected to be axed today with the closure of a Royal Navy arms depot at Trecwn, near Fishguard, in Dyfed.

Life in the Clyde, page 25

EC budget row looms

Continued from page 1

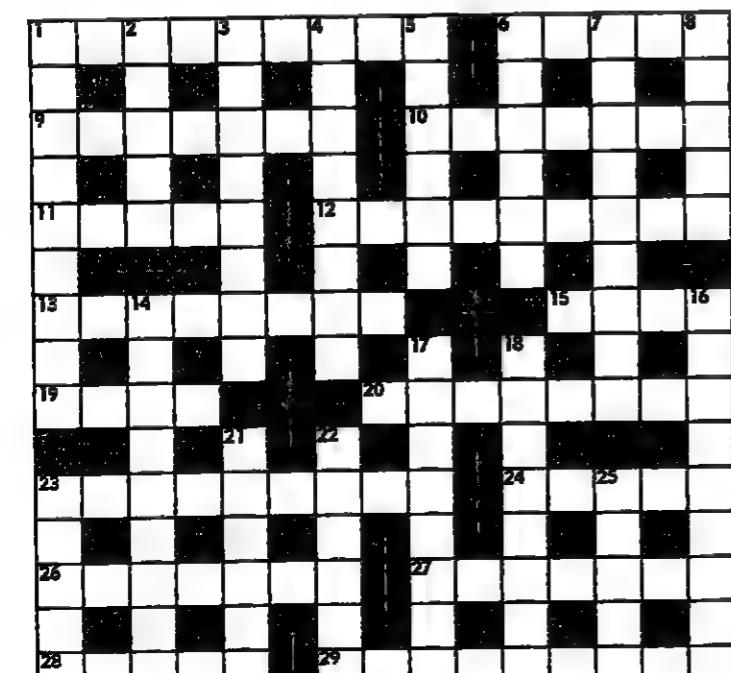
In Brussels said the government would reject any proposals that threatened to leave Britain worse off. "It requires a unanimous decision to change this," he said, "and without our agreement it cannot be changed." Even with the rebate, Britain is the second biggest contributor to the EC after Germany.

Arguments over the EC budget for the next five years will last at least throughout this year, but the inevitable row over what Britain pays could start before the British general election.

• EC of twenty: A unique meeting of all but one of Britain's surviving past commissioners in Brussels agreed that the main challenge facing the Community now was that of enlargement and the need to change the Commission structure to serve a Community of about 20 (Michael Binyon writes).

That would probably mean changing the number of commissioners and reducing both the number of languages used in daily workings and the number of MEPs from each country.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,823



ACROSS
 1 Scot has spoken about one form of publication (9).
 6 Person highly valued as boss (5).
 9 Canon rising to make collection (5,2).
 10 Famous player's club (7).
 11 Political group whose initial formation was accidental (5).
 12 Tilt a cone, say? It's very hard to move (4-5).
 13 Not demanding food in general — just a piece of cake (4-5).
 15 It's inferior, and broke (4).
 19 Part of repeated ovation for this star (4).
 20 Two sons of cast gathered for Caribbean seafood delicacy (8).
 23 Gallon's at home in (9).
 24 Nothing in terribly surroundings left dry (5).
 Solution to Puzzle No 18,822

26 Revolutionary leader not out to become a criminal (7).
 27 It helps one survive a main street pile-up (7).
 28 Deposit extra, say, to save for the future (3,2).
 29 Procedures chairman modified by end of day (9).
DOWN
 1 Like an old statesman, for one — uncorrupted (9).
 2 Person who's contemptible? Just a bit (5).
 3 Someone dated in more ways than one? (3,5).
 4 Size of paper put at risk when article's included (8).
 5 It's left, say, in form of clay (6).
 6 Legal expert's right, I found in fair case (6).
 7 Eddy's brief dance with Kitty (9).
 8 Enjoyed song about king (5).
 14 Each in turn has to cut connection with partner (9).
 16 Blues used in service (5,4).
 17 Supporting points exactly as presented in relation to court (8).
 18 Stuff I added, having first finished beef (8).
 21 Time up for boy or girl (6).
 22 Publication's taken on union, showing a lot of bottle (6).
 23 Reson first accommodation in poor condition (5).
 25 Naturalist first to go on board (5).

Answers to Puzzle No 18,822
 TUCKSHOP USABILITY
 R R A T A M R N
 AWAITH HYDROFOIL
 H B Y E V K K I
 QUA DRILL EWE RS
 U P L R B T
 IMPASTO BRONCO
 S L E M M R E C
 T EINER BOBTAIL
 B T O R F E A
 INCU SEADYDITI
 G A Y T C U S I M
 WINDBREAK TEMPO
 J A O R E R A
 GALAXY ANTEHNAE

Concise crossword, page 17



Watering hole: a Thames Water engineer inspects the renovated Honor Oak reservoir in south London, soon to be re-filled with 18 million gallons

De Lorean suit breaks cabinet secrecy

Continued from page 1

Treasury and other government agencies, were not needed. Andersen says that the Thatcher government continued to advance taxpayers' money to De Lorean despite warnings about offshore payments from the De Lorean company to the Swiss-based GDP Services. Through GDP, De Lorean first engaged Lotus to develop the

De Lorean DMC12 sports car. Fresh impetus has been given to the case, first filed in New York in the mid-1980s, by the delivery to Andersen of British cabinet minutes, ministerial briefing papers, and other confidential documents relating to the affair. Traditionally, many of these papers are subject to the rule which keeps cabinet papers secret for 30 years. But Charles

Stewart, an American federal judge hearing the case in the southern district court in New York, ruled in October that the government could not claim executive privilege over the papers if it hoped to pursue the case.

The sports car company was founded by the American financier, John De Lorean, and first gained government grants in 1978 under the

Callaghan administration. Its factory near Belfast was closed in October 1982.

Britain has bought its legal action under the American Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act which allows any damages to be tripled. Andersen's lawyers calculate that, with a compound rate of around 10 per cent a year, its total exposure could be \$1 billion.

Mr McEvilly-Ross said that

the

London scheme had been the fear that a housing association could be owning a house which fell in value. "But we think the arrangement with the Nationwide has minimised this risk," he said.

Mr McEvilly-Ross said that

mortgage arrears debts

which were more than the value of the property would not be written off initially. Provided owners met their obligations as tenants for three years, the Nationwide would not pursue borrowers for arrears.

Mr McEvilly-Ross said that

the London scheme will be

followed by others throughout the country "by Nationwide and, no doubt, from other organisations in the field". He said: "We now have a complete negotiated workable framework. In no sense will other schemes have to be copied, but we have already cracked all the problems."

The Nationwide was also

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FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Dealers stunned as final dividend is cut and first interim is withheld

Lonrho reports 24% fall after market close

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

LONRHO, the international trading conglomerate, left the market in a state of "stunned amazement" when it delayed its 1991 profits announcement until after market hours and then revealed that pre-tax profits for the year had fallen by 24.1 per cent to £207 million, and that the final dividend was cut from 8p to 5p a share.

The group further shocked analysts with news that "exceptionally, Lonrho will withhold the first interim dividend of 3p this year". The first interim is traditionally declared and paid at the same time as the final, so effectively the payment to shareholders is more than halved, from 11p a share to 5p.

Lonrho shares, which had risen 13p to 167p earlier in the day, when hopes were raised by news of the group's sale of its share in the Kühne & Nagel business, fell sharply after the 4.30pm announcement. In after hours trading, they were quoted at 115p – a fall of 39p – to test levels not seen since 1986.

The group's total 1991 pay-

ment at 13p a share compares with equivalent dividends totalling 15.7p for 1990, and will cost Lonrho £84 million. Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, sees his dividend income on 92.1 million shares clipped by £2.76 million following the decision to cut the 1991 final.

He also suffers from Lonrho's decision to withhold the first interim dividend of 3p this year" following the drop in pre-tax profits from £273 million to £207 million for the year to end-September. Net earnings turn out at 14.2p a share, Net asset value at September 30 was 204p a share (216p).

Analysts said they were stunned not only that the dividend was cut but also because the profits outcome was below forecasts.

During trading hours, Lonrho announced the sale of its 50 per cent stake in the German freight group Kühne & Nagel for DM340 million. The sale encouraged even the doubtful and at one point Lonrho shares reached 167p, up 13p.

Lonrho's activities embrace gold and platinum

mining in Africa, printing British postage stamps and Polish passports, hotels in Mexico and several motor interests. The past year has seen the resignation of Sir Edward du Cann as chairman, and this month's surprise resignation of Terry Robinson, main board director, to join the Vestey group.

Mr Rowland yesterday said: "Your company has been less profitable during the financial year, with a weak second half. It is extremely unusual for your board to offer you disappointing results..."

None the less, the profits announcement was made at the unusually late time of 4.30pm, after market hours in London and Johannesburg. The uncertainty about the dividend had kept analysts on tenterhooks throughout the day.

One analyst, however, said separate price sensitive announcements on the same day was not how you expect a major pic to behave.

In recent months, Lonrho shares have been a nervous market, partly because of the "tycoon factor", but also because of weaker metal prices and the concern about the impact of recession on the group's diverse consumer-related interests.

The shares have fallen from a 12-month high of 277p last April, and touched a four-year low of 142p on January 16.

Lonrho added that its current capital investment programme is "winding down", and certain development plans have been deferred. At the Metropole Hotel, London, phase three is not now going ahead because "the board is not satisfied that this is the best time".

Lonrho says it remains committed to Germany, has won a £14 million contract to print Polish passports, and that in Russia it now employs 500 people. Year-end gearing stood at 70 per cent and will fall to 60 per cent. "We are not dispirited," Lonrho added, "but we have to face up to the fact that there is a recession, and that life is difficult."

Comment, page 25

Fayed brothers fail to prevent panel hearing

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE Fayed brothers have failed in a High Court attempt to block disciplinary proceedings against them by the City takeover panel in connection with their acquisition of the House of Fraser stores group. Lord Justice Watkins rejected their application for a judicial review, saying their case was "unanswerable". The Fayed brothers are considering an appeal.

David Oliver, QC, for Mohammed, Salah and Ali Fayed, argued that the disciplinary hearing should be adjourned until after the conclusion of a court action launched against the Fayed brothers by Tiny Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, who was 1985 takeover

battle for House of Fraser, which includes Harrods. Mr Oliver said it would be a "travesty of justice" if the enquiry went ahead before the court case. Lonrho alleges fraud and claims damages for conspiracy and "unlawful interference with business" by the Fayed brothers and Kleinwort Benson, their financial advisers.

Dismissing the application with costs, Lord Justice Watkins said the takeover panel and the Fayed brothers were "in collision".

At the heart of the disciplinary hearing is the question of whether the Fayed brothers made statements about their wealth during the battle for House of Fraser that were misleading.

Comment, page 25

City downgrades Burton

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BURTON Group, the fashion retailer where Laurence Cooklin is chief executive, has been downgraded by analysts after shareholders were told at the annual meeting that sales in the first half of the year were only 1 per cent better than in the same period last year.

The figure includes a 5 per cent rise in Christmas sales, achieved by discounting prices, and at some expense to the gross margin.

Burton's news was received with mixed feelings by retail analysts but led to a series of profit downgradings even by

the more bullish followers of the stock. Paul Morris, of Goldman Sachs, cut his forecast for the year to end August from £22 million to £18 million. A buyer of Burton, he says any sales increase must be viewed positively. "Because Burton is a highly operated, highly geared, a 1 per cent movement in the sales line affects profit by £1 million," he said.

Kimber Cooklin, of County NatWest, rates the shares a "sell" and cut her profit forecast heavily. Most of the City is looking for profits between £10 million and £15 million.

Cooklin: sales edge up

date than a one-off larger purchase. With the threat of redundancy looming over so many households, Burton's customers know that at least Christmas will be assured.

The group sold 1.4 million hampers last Christmas, with the average spend per customer rising by 33 per cent. This has allowed Burton to forecast an increase in the total dividend of 62 per cent in the current year. Peter Johnson, the group's chairman, who owns around 70 per cent of the company, will be entitled to £90,000 in dividends.

Park Foods saw its share price jump 12.5 per cent to 483p yesterday on a bullish statement about its Christmas hamper business while MITIE Group, the engineering, cleaning and maintenance company, is reaping the benefits as numerous companies, under pressure from the economic downturn, cut their own ancillary service operations and put them out for tender.

Park Foods saw its share price jump 12.5 per cent to 483p yesterday on a bullish statement about its Christmas hamper business while MITIE Group, the engineering, cleaning and maintenance company, is reaping the benefits as numerous companies, under pressure from the economic downturn, cut their own ancillary service operations and put them out for tender. MITIE runs a scheme whereby customers subscribe a few pounds a week throughout the year and receive a Christmas hamper packed with goodies in December. When times are tough, customers find the enforced weekly saving of a small sum easier to accommodate.

CHRISTMAS hampers and office cleaning appear to be two businesses which are recession-proof, judging by figures announced yesterday. Park Foods and MITIE Group appear not only to be surviving the recession, but thriving on it.

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PowerGen import plans put squeeze on British Coal

By DEREK HARRIS

POWERGEN, second largest of Britain's big two power generators, is to build a £40 million coal terminal at Liverpool docks to bring in an extra 5 million tonnes of foreign coal annually.

This and other new terminals importing foreign coal — more environmentally friendly because of lower sulphur content — could meet well over 40 per cent of PowerGen's coal needs, currently 30 million tonnes a year.

It will bring more pressure to bear on British Coal as it prepares to renegotiate long-term supply contracts early next year with PowerGen and National Power, the biggest generators.

National Power is also on track to meet a substantial

proportion of its coal needs from imported low-sulphur supplies. Most coal mined in Britain has a higher sulphur content.

PowerGen's Kingsnorth power station, on the coast of Kent, has terminal facilities that can bring in 5 million tonnes of foreign coal annually.

The company, with National Power, is also negotiating for establishment of a coal imports terminal at Immingham, at the mouth of the River Humber. That would handle about 10 million tonnes of foreign coal a year. PowerGen's expected share would be about 4 million tonnes.

National Power is involved in developing a Bristol docks

terminal, due to start operating in 1994, that can handle up to 5 million tonnes of imported coal a year. It also has a joint venture for the development of a facility at Hull, with 3 million tonnes annual capacity. That is regarded primarily as a stop-gap until Immingham and Bristol begin operations in 1993.

PowerGen's Liverpool terminal is expected to start operation by late next year. The design and construction contract has gone to NEI and Clarke Chapman, both part of Rolls-Royce, the aero engine makers.

The contract will mainly benefit factories at Gateshead, in the North-East, but design work will be done at Carlisle.

Dr Alf Roberts, PowerGen's executive director, commercial, said: "The new terminal, which will be at Gladstone dock, on lease from Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, will increase PowerGen's options for fueling its coal-fired stations and meeting targets for reducing emissions of sulphur dioxide."

The PowerGen power stations at Ferrybridge, West Yorkshire, and Warrington, Cheshire, would be the first to benefit from the Immingham and Liverpool developments, respectively. Two other big PowerGen stations are at Cottam and Ratcliffe, both in Nottinghamshire. While each might possibly take supplies from an import terminal at Immingham, an additional import terminal has not been ruled out.

As well as boosting foreign coal imports, the two big generators are establishing more gas-fired power stations, further reducing their need for British Coal products.

However, British Coal is likely to remain the biggest single fuel supplier for electricity generation.

The move may take the sting out of the dispute, which was threatening to overshadow the other recommendations in the task force report.

David Rowland, who

chaired the task force, will sit on the working party but the rest of its membership is not yet known. Mr Rowland said: "I am very supportive of the action of the council. We are all now looking at the recommendations in the same way and I will do everything I can to help." Mr Rowland is believed to have insisted on a seat on the working party as a precondition to giving it his blessing.

Sir Jeremy, who is a nominated member of the Council of Lloyds, is widely regarded in the market as an independently minded chairman who will come to his own conclusions over the controversial issues of governance. Sir Jeremy has been a member of the council since 1987, but has not sat on any of its committees because of time pressures.

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Geoteam Exploration Ltd, AS and its affiliated company in the US, Precision Scientific Inc., are presently expanding their 3D seismic seismic exploration activity. During 1991 the first 3D survey vessel, Geo Explorer in the North Sea, Discoverer in the Gulf of Mexico have successfully completed surveys in the North Sea and the US. Our present expansion plan includes further vacancies for the following positions, all based at the Geoteam Exploration Ltd office in Oslo.

Technical Manager
The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of technical support to the seismic operations and will be expected to play an active role in the company's technical development. Applicants should have a minimum of 8 years experience in the major seismic industry with a strong background in the use of seismic data to predict geological structures and reservoirs and geological models. Previous technical management experience in a seismic position will be preferred.

Mechanical Systems Supervisor
The position holds responsibility for the day to day support to the mechanical department onboard the seismic survey vessel and reports to the Technical Manager.

Applicants should have a minimum of 5 years experience in marine seismic operations and some previous experience in seismic survey systems, in sea survey systems, hydraulics and high pressure air systems.

Periodic work offshore and at seaports may be expected. Previous experience in a similar position will be preferred.

Marine Operations Supervisor
The position involves day to day support to the marine operations, close liaison with the technical support group and regular contact with the client.

Applicants should have a minimum of 5 years experience in marine seismic operations, preferably with experience in a similar position.

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Navigation Data Processor
Applicants should have minimum of two years navigation processing or offshore positioning experience within the seismic industry. The position will involve the editing and interactive processing of data from GPS, 2D and 3D navigation systems, together with data from acoustic, laser and camera systems to produce survey lines for 3D seismic positioning. Periodic offshore travel may be expected.

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★ Correction to the ad "ENGLISH-LAN-
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★ The candidates must have 5 passes
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New broom: Gerry Robinson, chief executive

Granada dismisses Warburg as banker

By MARTIN WALLER

GRANADA Group has dismissed its merchant bank, Warburg Securities, and replaced it by Lazard Brothers. The development is a further ripple from the upsets that caused the departure of Derek Lewis, the former chief executive, last year.

Warburg was also joint broker and has relinquished that post to Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Warburg was instrumental in the City revolt that led to the departure of Mr Lewis and a £310 million

lion rescue rights issue, but the bank also criticised the position of Alex Bernstein.

Mr Bernstein was reportedly furious at this perceived lack of support. Granada directors were unavailable last night and Warburg refused to comment on a client relationship.

It is believed that Mr Lewis's replacement, Gerry Robinson, who arrived in November from the Compass Group, favoured appointing Lazard.

Dunkel warns of green trade friction

From NEIL KELLY
IN BANGKOK

ARTHUR Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, has issued a warning that countries with high environmental standards could lose business to economies that are less stringent. That could trigger serious trade friction, he said.

To avoid poorer environmental standards being used as a competitive weapon, Mr Dunkel is keen to see the issue made subject to multilateral trading rules. In an interview with *The Times*, he said that establishing international rules linking trade and environmental standards should be the next task for the trade negotiators after a successful conclusion of the current Uruguay round of talks on trade liberalisation.

He told an international conference yesterday that reform of world trade in agricultural products would be a contribution to improving the environment. Use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides harmful to the environment was closely linked to prices received by farmers. Countries with low prices, such as Australia, Argentina and Thailand used a twentieth of the amount of those chemicals as was used by western European countries.

Correcting growth price distortions in the market place by cutting farm subsidies would reduce environmental damage, he said.

Mr Dunkel told the Emerging Business and the Environment conference, organised by the International Herald Tribune, that there was a danger that protectionists would use concern about the environment to raise new barriers against free trade. He said those problems must not be used as a pretext of reducing competition.

Anand Panayachan, the Thai prime minister, said Thailand is to discourage national companies from logging in neighbouring countries. It has banned logging in its own forest and begun a reforestation programme.

THE BUSINESS ROUNDUP

GEC Alsthom wins orders worth £1bn

GEC Alsthom, the Anglo-French power generator manufacturer, has netted a French nuclear power turbine generator order which brings its total of new orders over the last nine days close to £1 billion. GEC factories at Rugby, in Warwickshire, and Stafford, which manufacture steam turbines and generators, will benefit.

GEC Alsthom, in which Britain's GEC has a half share, was chosen earlier as the main supplier for gas combined-cycle power plants for a new Dutch station in a contract worth £550 million. A consortium of GEC-Alsthom with Balfour Beatty was awarded a £570 million contract for a combined cycle gas-fired station to be built by Thames Power at Barking, east London.

Albrighton sells

ALBRIGHTON has sold the assets, business and goodwill of Transplastix, its architectural glazing subsidiary, to Yule Cano & Co. The sale price is £2.3 million in cash and net assets of the business are £1.45 million. Transplastix's net profits before interest and management charges for the year to end-March were £1 million. For the current year, Transplastix forecasts net profits of about £350,000. Peter Woodward, chairman of Albrighton, said the disposal was a major step in the group's financial restructuring and the proceeds would reduce its indebtedness. He said the sale was unconditional and had been completed.

Hill & Smith falls

PRE-TAX profits at Hill & Smith Holdings, the steel fabricator and stockholder, fell 9 per cent to £4.64 million for the year to end-September. Turnover was up 5 per cent at £75.82 million and shareholders' funds increased more than 40 per cent to £29 million. The company said its steel stockholding and drop-forging operations had struggled for market share in a climate of falling margins. John Silk, the chairman, said the construction industry would be lucky to recover in 1992, although road construction could be expected to continue at satisfactory levels. The final 3.9p dividend makes up for the year's 16 per cent improvement.

Denmans edges up

DENMANS Electrical, the electrical goods wholesaler, is lifting its final dividend from 4p to 4.2p a share, raising the total for the year from 5.65p to 5.85p. Pre-tax profits edged forward from £1.22 million to £1.26 million in the year to end-September, despite a decline in turnover from £35.1 million to £34.5 million. Earnings dipped from 18.65p to 18.75p per share. The wholesale business expanded in its branch network, although sales were affected by reduced building activity. Credit risks continued to be a problem, with the bad debt provision running well above historical levels. The shares added 8p to 156p.

Proteus loss soars

PROTEUS International, the drug design company quoted on the USM, has announced interim losses increased from £520,000 to £1.27 million for the half year to end-September. The previous comparable figures covered a five-month period. The company is developing products for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, breast and prostate cancer, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Other products are being developed for food preservation, industrial catalysts and hair conditioners. The balance sheet remained strong at end-December with £1.5 million net cash. Proteus raised £1.23 million with a share issue in December.

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MMC will pay closer attention to utilities

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission is likely to play a much bigger role in the affairs of privatised companies, especially monopoly utilities, Sir Sydney Lipworth, the MMC chairman, said yesterday. The commission was entirely neutral about more references of privatised companies, "but we must expect disputes between companies and their regulators and we can arbitrate".

The commission does not, however, like to be seen as posing the threat of drastic action that overhangs privatised companies in their dealings with other regulators. Both BT and British Gas have recently agreed last-minute regulatory deals, with

Optimism lifts shares in Airtours

SHARES in Airtours, the holiday company, rose 7p to 903p on an upbeat trading statement from David Crossland, the chairman.

At the company's annual meeting yesterday, Mr Crossland told shareholders that sales in the first three months of the current financial year were up on the same period in the previous year. Winter and summer season order intake are more than 90 per cent higher than last year, which was adversely affected by the Gulf war.

The company said it is raising prices across its product range. Mr Crossland also reported that the company's airline will take delivery of three more aircraft in the spring, substantially increasing profitability.

Ransom rises

William Ransom & Son, the Hertfordshire manufacturing chemist, lifted pre-tax profits 6.8 per cent to £251,000 in the half year to end-September, despite stiff price competition, on sales of £3.17 million (£2.99 million). Earnings climb from 1p to 1.16p per share. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.525p. The shares responded with a 6p rise to 43p.

Cook dives

DC Cook Holdings, the motor dealer and property developer, is paying an interim dividend of 0.2p (nil) despite sharply lower first-half profits. The USM quoted company reported pre-tax profits of £107,000 in the half-year to end-October, against £350,000 last time. Earnings fell to 0.31p (1.15p) per share with fully diluted earnings down to 0.33p (1.19p).

Scapa control

Scapa Group, the industrial fabrics maker, said it controlled 98.4 per cent of Scandiafelt, the Swedish firm. In November, Scapa made a 370 million kronor (£36 million) recommended bid for Scandiafelt, which makes fabrics for the pulp and paper industry.

Policies to help Bush win election find no favour

Bonn will defy US calls to ease

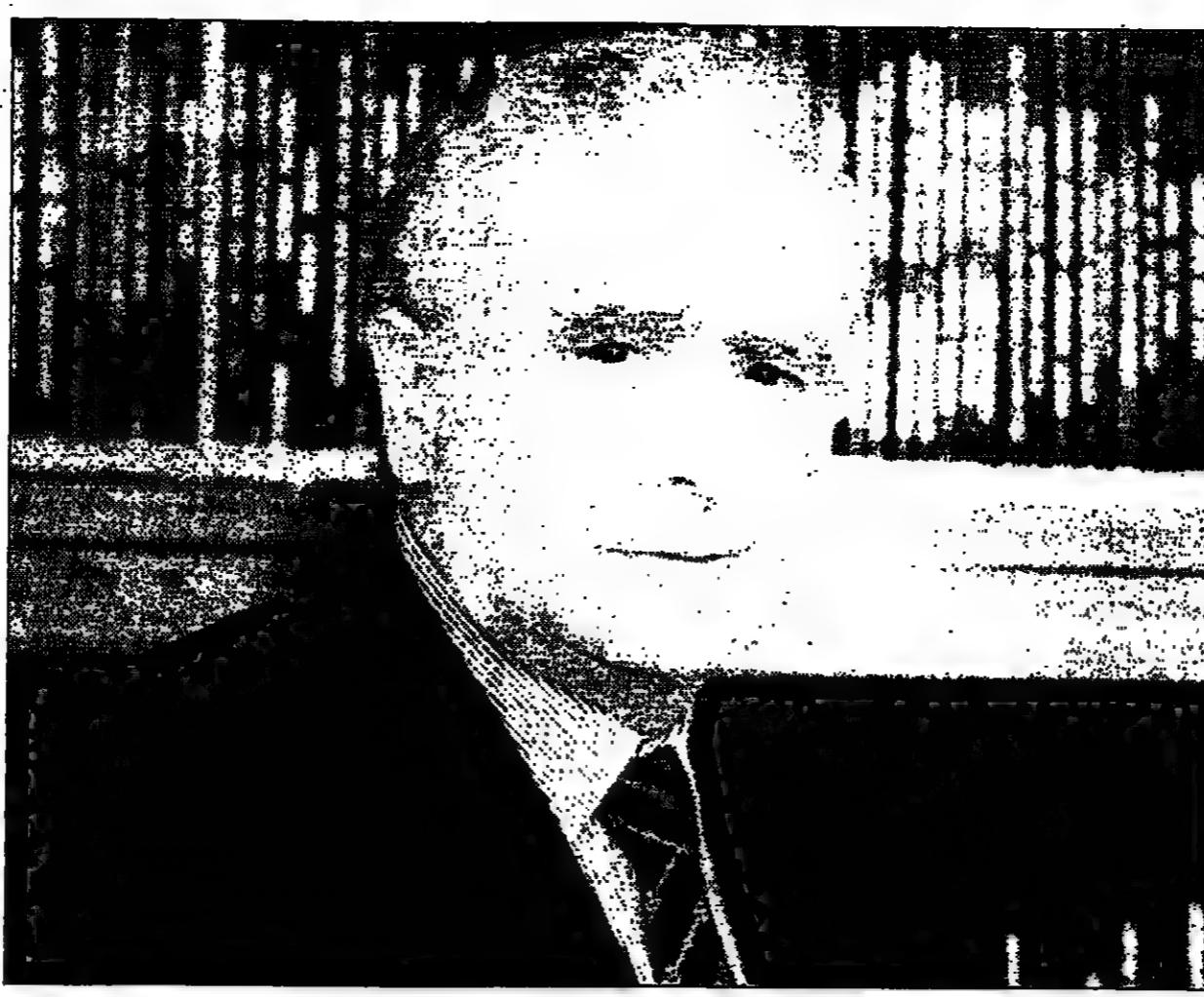
By COLIN NARSBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

Pöhl: call to resist

ca when the two countries' central banks conducted joint intervention to keep the dollar from rising against the yen. Tatsunori Hata, the Japanese finance minister, has nevertheless undermined the primacy of domestic economic conditions, indicating that there was no enthusiasm in Tokyo for policies mainly tailored to American needs.

There is scant evidence that America is responding to lower interest rates and Washington has tried to prevent the dollar from appreciating. It fears that a stronger currency would suck in imports and throttle export growth.

Japan, under intense pressure during President Bush's recent visit, operated in close concert with Ameri-



No preconceived ideas: Sir Sydney says the commission will look at each case on its merits

Scott's Hospitality takes on Marriott franchise

BY MATTHEW BOND

SCOTT'S Hospitality, the Canadian group that until last month ran almost half of Bass's Holiday Inn chain in Britain, has reached a new master franchise agreement with Marriott Corporation, the American hotel chain.

The agreement means that Marriott, which currently runs only 23 hotels outside America including two in Britain, will soon become a familiar name in the British hotel market.

Under the new agreement, 13 former Holiday Inns will switch to the Marriott brand, including the London hotels at Marble Arch and Swiss Cottage, and the Holiday Inn Glasgow.

Scott's, which owns and operates its hotels, parted company with Holiday Inns after it failed to "seize a territorial franchise" that would have given it control of the Holiday Inn brand in

Britain. At the time, Holiday Inns, which has 1,600 hotels around the world, said that such agreements were not company policy.

However, Marriott has proved more amenable and has granted Scott's exclusive franchises for two of its brands, the four-star Marriott Hotels and the three-star Courtyard by Marriott. A hotel nearing completion at Slough, Berkshire, will become the first Courtyard by Marriott outside America when it opens in March.

Ed Fuller, managing director of Marriott Lodging, said: "Marriott has long said it desired a larger presence in Great Britain and we are delighted to have forged this alliance with Scott's Hotels, which shares our management philosophies, marketing focus and strong commitment to quality."

The deal with Scott's means initially there will be ten four-star Marriott Hotels in Britain, from Aberdeen to Bristol, with an 11th opening in Leeds next year. The number of Courtyard by Marriott should quickly rise to seven, although four, including the almost-finished hotel at Slough, are still in the process of construction.

Engineers' pay deals still fall

By DEREK HARRIS

PAY settlement levels continued their downward slide in the final quarter of last year, according to the Engineering Employers' Federation. December saw a drop in median levels to 4 per cent, less than half the level of the final quarter of 1990.

The trend to nil pay settlements, or deferred ones, continued during the quarter. The federation monitored nearly 200 settlements in the beleaguered engineering sector and found nine where there will be no pay rises within the foreseeable future.

Five additional short-term deferrals emerged late in addition to the 25 nil or deferred deals recorded in the quarterly figures.

In the third quarter of last year, the median level had been at 5 per cent, but in the final quarter the median — taking the three months together — had slipped to 4.93 per cent.

Car industry calls for help from Budget

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury has lost tax revenue worth £2.1 billion from the dramatic drop in car sales in the last two years.

Figures out last night show that the government has paid the price of its tough budget policies on the motor industry in sharply falling tax revenue, reflecting lost sales of almost a million vehicles since 1989.

The Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents Britain's 13,000 motor dealers, said the losses outweighed gains derived from tax increases on company car drivers and other measures in the 1991 Budget.

Neil Marshall, the RMI's chief economist, said: "There is no doubt that the motor industry has been hit so hard that it has been unable to withstand the shock. The irony is that the Treasury too has suffered because of the huge impact in showrooms."

He said: "We have to ask whether we are just transferring jobs from Dagenham to Derby? Our intention is that that should not happen and that there should be growth in the economy and in sales of motor vehicles."

Sir Hal and a team from the SMMT were meeting Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, last night to drive home their message that the motor industry needed help from the Budget next month. The SMMT is pressing for a wider price differential between petrol and diesel to encourage greater awareness of fuel use.

Although predicting a slight growth in car sales from this year's 1.6 million, the organization does not expect the market to top 1.75 million and even then growth is not predicted until the last quarter of the year.

Macarthy cuts payout

By MARTIN BARROW

MACARTHY, the pharmaceuticals retailer and manufacturer awaiting the outcome of a monopolies commission enquiry into two unsolicited bids, has reduced its total dividend from 12.5p a share to 10p, despite a 15 per cent rise in profits.

The company is recommending a final payment of 5p, down from last year's comparable 7.5p. In the 12 months to end-September, pre-tax profits rose from £4.6

he said, as the market continued to contract and absorbed cars from Japanese "transplant" factories.

Nissan has invested an extra £200 million to lift capacity to more than 270,000 cars a year from its plant at Washington, Tyne & Wear, while Toyota, at Burnaston, near Derby, and Honda, at Swindon, Wiltshire, will start production this year.

Those three companies could add 500,000 cars a year to output from UK factories in three years, but Sir Hal questioned whether a stagnant British economy could stand the infusion of the extra cars.

He said: "We have to ask whether we are just transferring jobs from Dagenham to Derby? Our intention is that that should not happen and that there should be growth in the economy and in sales of motor vehicles."

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Lonrho dashes dividend hopes

Tiny Rowland will have fewer friends in the City this morning, even if his band of country followers stays loyal — not only because of the cut in the final dividend from 8p to 5p a share and the passing of the 3p first interim, but because of the unsatisfactory way Lonrho yesterday chose to make its public announcements.

The debate about whether Lonrho's final dividend would be safe has exercised analysts' minds for weeks, and the share price has suffered accordingly. The market was told, mid-morning that year-end results would be held back until 4.30pm, which compounded the uncertainty. Then at noon, Lonrho made what was seen as an encouraging statement that it was selling its 50 per cent stake in Kühne & Nagel for a total cash consideration of DM340 million.

The market interpretation was that the final dividend for 1991 would, after all, be safe and there was short-lived comfort that perhaps all was not as bad as feared. That the 1991 pre-tax profits fell as much as they did, from £273 million to £207 million, was an added shock. Weak metal prices and the recession were factors beyond Lonrho's control, as were the effects of the Gulf war that kept tourists at home and dented consumer spending.

In City-Lonrho relationships, few years have been good, but the past 12 months have been worse than usual. There was the resignation last August for reasons unconnected with Lonrho, of Sir Edward du Cann, the chairman, and Terry Robinson has also gone. René Leclezio, the new chairman, might be 'Mr Sugar' in the Indian Ocean, but is virtually unknown in the City.

Whoever finally takes over the dominant role at Lonrho, that is currently the preserve of Tiny Rowland, the chief executive, has an unenviable task. Mr Rowland should ensure that his successor's task is made no more difficult than necessary by improving communications with the City.

Stags lose out

Judging from statistics, the government can look investors in the eye over its privatisation programme and might even hope for a thank you come election time. A study by Peter Curwen and David Holmes in the latest National Westminster Bank quarterly review suggests that investors who bought £300 worth of shares on each of the 26 occasions the government has asked them to stump up since 1979 enjoyed a compound annual rate of return of 23.8 per cent up until the end of September. This comfortably outperformed investing in the all-share index, which showed an annual return before capital gains tax of 19.1 per cent.

Indeed, privatisation would have done much more for those who truly invested in the stocks, at a total presumed cost of £7,800, than for the smart folk who simply tried to make a quick return by taking £300 from the building society, selling the privatised stock on day one and putting the money back. Excluding the doomed 1987 BP sale and two tender issues, that would have generated a worthwhile average of 560 per cent, amounting to £1,556 altogether, or £2,431 with reinvestment of the profits in a building society. In terms of return, that is pretty good, but it was no way to get rich, especially as allocations were low on some of the most stageworthy issues. In practice, most investors will not have done so well. Some of the best returns were on early issues, such as AB Ports, which were not aimed at a mass market, while, as the authors admit, the popular utility stocks have had a hard time since September as regulators bared their teeth and the election loomed.

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

French flavour for Merrill

GIVEN that European equities are one of the few lucrative areas of expansion still open to UK securities firms, and that proficient European analysts and traders are now commanding premium prices, Merrill Lynch Europe, the British offshoot of the American company, has pulled off something of a coup. From next month, it will be fielding David Jones as its French equity analyst. Jones, who was previously joint director of research responsible for investment strategy at the securities subsidiary of Crédit Commercial de France, also once worked for Savory Mills and SG Warburg. For four of his five years at Warburg, Jones was the top-rated French analyst in the Eurolist survey. His brief at Merrill will be to combine coverage of French equities with a specialisation in the services sector across Europe. Merrill, which makes markets in 150 European stocks — double the number of a year ago — has also been recruiting for its trading desk. James Blackham has joined from Salomon Brothers, as a senior trader in Dutch equities, and Michael Nielsen, former Commerzbank and Deutschebank, will be joining its Frankfurt office in April as its head, and first floor trader on the Frankfurt stock exchange.

Adversaries' honour

TSB, the bank that likes to say "yes", was probably unaware of the irony when it chose Gary Smith and Sir Michael Bishop as business



Animal evacuation

KELT Energy, the independent oil and gas company run by Hubert Ferro, the polo playing companion of Prince Charles, has had its fair share of financial woes in the past. However, they may seem like nothing compared with a drama due to unfold next week. On Tuesday, an enquiry will begin into plans for a £30 million sour-gas-fired power station in the Vale of Pickering, North Yorkshire. Kelt, which heads a consortium including BP, has hired Steurton House, home of Sir Michael Storey, chairman of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, to accommodate the hundreds of locals who are expected to voice their disapproval. Their vote aside, Kelt can expect sparks from Robert Gibb, millionaire owner of the Flamingoland Zoo. Gibb claims it would take days and cost up to £10 million to evacuate the elephants, giraffes and other inmates of his zoo in the event of an accident at the plant.

All in a name

OUR quest for a name for the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) goes on. Flippan suggestions from readers include: BRUGES — Bureaucrats Rule Unless GATT is signed; BRUSSELS — Bureaucrats Rule Unless Somebody Stops Everybody's Local Subsidy; EMROCK — Free Market Rules O (Common) K; SUBSTANCE — Subsidised

Gilts that promise safe passage for pensioners

Dryden Gilling-Smith calls for the issue of long-term, index-linked bonds, to the mutual benefit of both borrower and lender

INDEX-linked gilt-edged stocks were first issued in Britain just over ten years ago. In 1981, inflation was expected to fall and it made good sense for the Exchequer to borrow on a low index-linked interest coupon instead of locking into the historic high interest rates that were then having to be offered on new issues of conventional government bonds.

We are now in a parallel situation. If the Treasury believes its own inflation forecasts, it would be very much cheaper for the government to fund the growing public sector borrowing requirement by means of index-linked gilts — particularly in advance of the election.

Any issues of conventional gilts are bound to carry a political risk premium, which can be avoided by issuing index-linked gilts. Yet the last long-dated index-linked issue was more than five years ago, on December 21, 1986.

For much of that period admittedly, the government was on balance, repaying debt rather than funding a deficit, so that relatively little stock of any kind needed to be issued. But it is surprising to note that the most recent issues have been conventional gilts with a redemption yield of around 9½ per cent when index-linked gilts are yielding around 4 per cent.

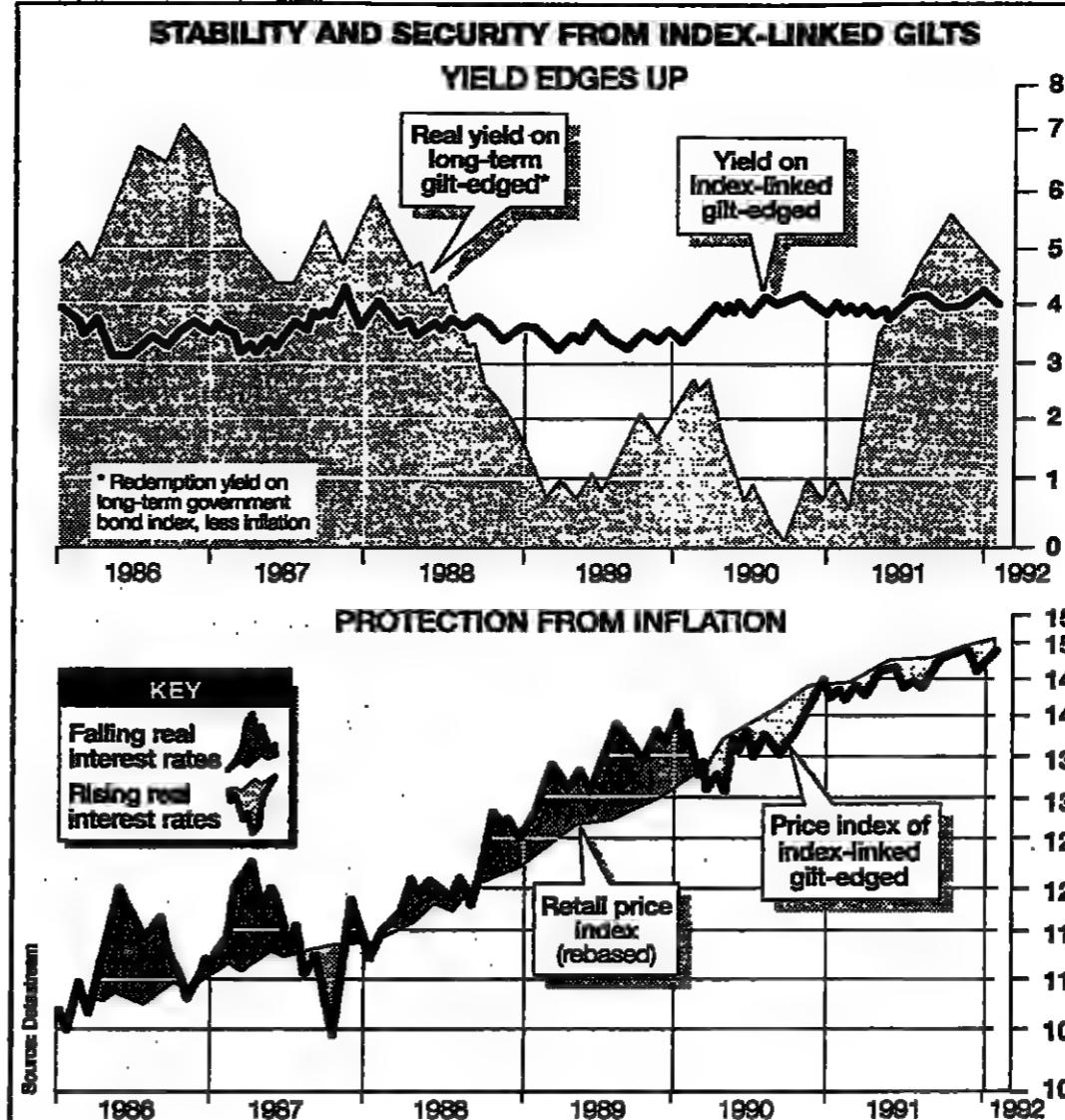
If inflation is set to fall to somewhere between zero and 4 per cent, one wonders why index-linked gilts are not being used as the main funding vehicle. Is it because the Treasury, in its heart of hearts, believes that Neil Kinnock will move into Number Ten and set Britain on course for South American style inflation?

Index-linked gilts also play an important part in the government's attempt to persuade employers to inflation-proof their occupational pensions. Public sector pensioners and their surviving spouses can retire in the secure knowledge that their pensions will be increased each year in line with the retail prices index as an unfunded liability to be met by future taxpayers.

Prospects for inflation may look good in the immediate future but a man retiring now at 60, say, with a wife of 50 who might well survive to her 90s, is concerned with protection against inflation over the next 40 years or so.

Some private sector employers have been prepared to offer this kind of security of income in old age. Many small, self-administered pension plans offer the same security. An entrepreneur who sets up a small self-administered pension plan, of which he is the sole member, wants protection if he sells his business prior to retirement. The pension rights will normally be secured by means of an index-linked annuity.

In practical terms, however, it is unreasonable to expect employers to pick up the tab for this inflation-proofing unless they are offered a suitable investment vehicle. This is



where index-linked gilts can play a key role.

When an employee retires, a pension fund can buy an index-linked annuity from several household-name life assurance groups, including Standard Life, Prudential, Pearl and Norwich Union, which can match their liabilities by investment in index-linked gilts.

At the date of an employee's retirement, therefore, the employer knows exactly how much he has to pay in order to provide an inflation-proof pension for the worker and his or her surviving spouse and can fund accordingly, as many employers already do.

If the employer is taken over by someone who wants to follow in Robert Maxwell's footsteps or goes into liquidation, the employee's pension rights are secure and protected.

The employer does not have to be a large company to offer this type of security of income in old age. Many small, self-administered pension plans offer the same security. An entrepreneur who sets up a small self-administered pension plan, of which he is the sole member, wants protection if he sells his business prior to retirement. The pension rights will normally be secured by means of an index-linked annuity.

Most insurance companies that issue index-linked annuities are,

however, obliged to set a cut-off point at the year 2024, the date when the longest-term index-linked gilt-edged stocks are redeemed.

The pensions industry desperately needs a big new issue of longer-dated stock that can be taken up by insurance companies offering index-linked annuities and those large self-administered pension funds that wish to "immunise" their liabilities to provide inflation-proof pensions.

To provide for a surviving spouse who might benefit from a pension for 40 years, we will require an issue with a redemption date of at least 2032.

Indeed, it would be better to make that 2040 in order to cater for the increasing number of centenarians who, thanks to improved medical care, are likely to require pensions in the 21st century and for those occasional spouses who are prepared to put up with earning partners that are more than ten years their senior.

If necessary, such an issue could be confined to tax-exempt approved pension funds and to insurers providing investment and annuity services.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, who was Chancellor when index-linked gilts made their debut in 1981, originally favoured this formula. Restrictions were to counter vague official fears

about such a novelty, including the anxiety of Sir Gordon Richardson, then Governor of the Bank of England, that Opec governments would pile into any such issue, obliging the British government to offer them inflation protection for all time.

In the Eighties, when equities earned high rates of return, many investment managers tended to look down their noses at index-linked gilts. Now that dividend expectations are low the real rate of return guaranteed by index-linked gilts is attracting increased attention. They could be the best bet for a stable core portfolio for the Nineties.

Regardless of any merits of index-linked gilts as an investment for a growing pension fund portfolio, the most important immediate concern is to provide an adequate supply of new, long-dated issues needed for pension funds and their insurers to offer the necessary guarantees of income security in old age that has been the declared aim of government policy.

As more industries are privatised and as the burden of old age provision is privatised, private sector providers need to be given the tools to do the job.

The author is managing director of Employee Benefit Services Management, the actuary and consultant.

Shipyard deals put life into the Clyde

For more than three years the rusting "Tuxedo Princess", formerly the Stranraer-Larne ferry Caledonian Princess, has lain at anchor alongside Glasgow's Broomielaw. Used as a nightclub and restaurant until the venture recently folded, it is an ironic sight for Glaswegians who remember when the Clyde built some of the world's greatest liners and warships.

The upper Clyde basin, with its empty wharves and motionless cranes, remains a stark reminder of the Clyde's former maritime pre-eminence, but recently the river has witnessed a modest resurgence in shipbuilding, marked yesterday by the announcement that the Yarrow naval yard has won a vital order for three Type 23 frigates.

In December, the Norwegian-owned Kvaerner Govan yard on the south bank won a £200 million order for four 37,500-ton bulk chemical carriers, securing 1,700 jobs. The yard was saved from closure by the Norwegians in 1988.

Shipyard workers on the Clyde, or what was left of them, could be forgiven for their lack of morale over 20 years as yards closed and orders went to the Far East and continental Europe. Kvaerner Govan, however, saw off rivals for the order. Workers have been persuaded to drop the restrictive practices that made the yards uncompetitive. Absenteeism has become a forgotten habit.

In the Sixties, demarcation disputes were rife. European countries, and Japan and Korea, were building ships faster and more cheaply. In 1968, with Clyde yards collapsing, Upper Clyde Shipbuilders was formed. Despite £20 million from the Labour government the demarcation disputes continued. In 1970, the new Conservative government refused any more aid and the famous "work-in" followed, eventually leading to Govan Shipbuilders, an amalgam of three yards.

Yet by 1988 the Govan was tottering on the brink of collapse under British Shipbuilders, which had swallowed £2 billion of state aid since nationalisation and had seen the national workforce tumble from 32,000 to 6,000. Since the Norwegian takeover the workforce has remained steady.

There was further proof of the resurgence of the Clyde on Wednesday when Ferguson Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow launched the Star Pegasus, a £10 million supply vessel, commissioned by Star Offshore Services.

Yarrow, which has concentrated on military vessels since the late Sixties is now poised to enter the civilian market with a bid to build a 120-car ferry for Caledonian MacBrayne. Yarrow said the new order would secure its future.

"We are expecting an upturn in the merchant fleet which means that with Kvaerner Govan secure and ourselves reasonably secure we have the capacity to take up anything that comes along," Mr Fyfe said.

KERRY GILL

£400m order, page 20

BUSINESS LETTERS

Lloyd's should return to basics

From Mr Jeremy Lyons

Sir, I feel the powers at Lloyd's and the writers of the Rowland Report have both lost themselves in complexities.

They must revert to fundamentals — that is the strength behind Lloyd's is the Society of Members.

It would appear that the report does not address the four main problems affecting this society of Members of Lloyd's today.

Firstly, increasing costs — which must be headed by self-regulation. If an outside government body were to regulate Lloyd's, the high cost of regulation would then not be borne solely by the Members, while at the same time they would have more confidence in such regulation, where conflicts of interest would no longer apply.

Secondly, with the vast number of open year syndicates, a large number of members are unable to re-sign/leave Lloyd's, even though this is exactly what

they may want. Some syndicates have implied that the attempt to close these syndicates is only half-hearted and that this situation will continue in order not to lose a large number of members, and therefore underwriting capacity, until corporate membership can be implemented.

Thirdly, even with the proposed stop loss provision, a profit ratio on average of say 15 per cent on deposit, in relation to a possible loss of 300 per cent of deposit (investment) is hardly an incentive for new members to invest.

And finally in order to encourage new members of Lloyd's — surely Lloyd's must be seen to be taking care of its existing members — something not apparently a recommendation of the working party report.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY N. M. LYONS,
Members' Writing Room,
Lloyd's of London,
1 Lime Street,
EC3.

Clear case for a regulatory body

From Major F. N. L. Chapman

Sir, Mr A. Kininmonth may be unduly optimistic (Business Letters, January 21). Should the suspicion once grow that there are untrustworthy agents at Lloyd's and that members' agents, accountants and reinsurers are prospering at members' expense, whereas the members themselves are getting small returns, if any, for the risks they run, then it is inevitable that membership will decline much further.

Although every member knows the risk he takes, the general assumption is

Lloyd's is to remain viable, must be that the probability is one of profit. There seems to be a clear case for a regulatory body and a separate business board.

Yours faithfully,

FRANK L. CHAPMAN,
Underwriting member of
Lloyd's,
Woodpeckers,
Golf Course Road,
Painswick,
Gloucestershire.

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NAME ADDRESS

Dear Shareholder,

The Group's balance sheet is strong with shareholders' equity of £1.3 billion and cash balances of over £280 million, 87 per cent. of which is banked in Europe or the United States. Net borrowings remain at the level reported in the Interim Statement with gearing at 70 per cent.

Lonrho's current capital investment programme is winding down and borrowings will reduce during the year with a corresponding reduction in gearing. In addition, a selection of companies from the group of 300 will be carefully sold during the year as a year of good housekeeping.

By having the widest spread of assets in many countries, Lonrho hoped to avoid exposure to a recession in any particular economy or industry. The Gulf war brought world-wide economic consequences, bringing a strong decline to tourism, consumption, manufacturing, industry and oil. For example, the fall in precious metal prices accounts for nearly half of the reduction in Lonrho's profits in the second six months compared to last year and the rare industrial metal rhodium sold in 1990 at £2000 per ounce but is now £1000 per ounce. Your Company has been less profitable during the financial year, with a weak second half.



The new Lonrho House in Nairobi, Kenya.

Despite it all, the year end result was £207 million profit before tax against £273 million last year, and Lonrho remains soundly based to move back to its normal pattern of turnover and profit.

The production of platinum group metals and gold continues to be a major source of revenue for Lonrho, and 1991 saw another substantial uplift in production from the planned expansion at Western Platinum and Ashanti.

In Western Platinum, shareholders have, I believe, one of the world's great mines with a life of at least one hundred years, together with low-cost modern production methods. The sudden fall in platinum and rhodium prices is caused by world recession combined with destocking. The mining industry has weathered the effects of cyclical pricing time and time again.

At Ashanti in Ghana production is steadily increasing according to the programme which envisages a million ounces per annum in three years. Lonrho is in partnership with the Republic of Ghana in developing the Ashanti Mine and has enjoyed an exceptional degree of constructive support from the Government.

Across Africa, Lonrho maintains and improves its position as the largest food producer. The Company also raises beef cattle and ranches a total herd of



The new Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana.

120,000 head. Unusually, the estates in Mozambique have to contend with unsettled local circumstances and the Board offers its warm appreciation to those who continue to operate and produce with the knowledge of real physical risk. The Company employs over 10,000 field workers in Mozambique, and a uniformed and armed defence unit of 1,400 men. Peace is imminent in Mozambique and we will be thankful to stand down the men who enabled the Company to continue its farming business and let them return to their normal work.

Across the world the Gulf war cut back both business and holiday travel and our hotels suffered a severe drop in occupancy during the year under review. In recent months the recovery has been gradual. Overall, our hotels are in excellent physical condition, and with small exceptions freehold and wholly-owned. Outstanding among them is the Acapulco Princess, which has no world competitor in size and quality. The new motorway from Mexico City is rapidly being completed and will give this remarkable hotel immeasurably better access from the capital.

In central London, £60 million has been invested in adding a modern complex of conference halls and two hundred new rooms to the Metropole Hotel. A third phase has received planning permission for an extension which would make the Metropole London's largest hotel in the under-supplied middle market, but the Board is not satisfied that this is the best time to go ahead.

The sale of Lonrho's fifty per cent. share in the German freight company Kühne & Nagel was announced on 23 January, 1992. Mr. Klaus Kühne has been a wonderful partner since Lonrho originally invested



Rock boring equipment - Kares platinum mine.

Lonrho's balance sheet is strong

Cash balances exceed £280 million

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

The following text is taken from the Review of Operations for the year ended 30 September, 1991.

MINING & REFINING

The Group's three platinum mines have achieved a 29 per cent. improvement in production to 625,000 ounces of platinum group metals.

Major extensions to the smelting complex, base metal refinery and precious metal refinery have been or are being completed, and concentrates produced by the newly acquired Kares mine are now being treated at Western

Total gold production from Ashanti will increase to one million ounces a year by 1993/94. Gold production in Zimbabwe increased by over 4,000 ounces to exceed 164,000 ounces.

Coal sales continued to increase reaching a new record of 5.3 million tonnes.

AGRICULTURE

Lonrho is the largest commercial food producer in Africa with sugar production being the major source of profits. In spite of reduced production in Swaziland and Mauritius due to

in Kenya, Farmers Choice expanded its meat production facilities with the opening of a new factory in January. This expansion has resulted in exports of meat products to neighbouring countries in East Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

Tea coffee and other major agricultural operations in Malawi had a poor year.

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forced sale
property

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

YTD											
Bid	Offer	+/-	%	Bid	Offer	+/-	%	Bid	Offer	+/-	%
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 80 Holborn, EC1B 3JL, London	110.00	111.00	+1.00	1.00	5.68			350.20	362.60	+1.40	3.15
BBH SAL 0345 717373	106.10	107.10	+1.00	1.00	5.49			87.43	93.40	+6.00	6.19
Management International	99.34	95.55	+0.26	2.68				125.10	251.00	+1.30	1.91
Dividend Csh	62.98	66.99	+0.11	1.31				103.00	109.40	+0.30	1.93
Global Csh Csh	46.00	49.98	+0.09	6.00				101.00	107.80	+0.10	2.51
Global Growth	53.12	56.51	+0.10	3.00				100.30	203.30	+2.60	4.00
High Div Equity	51.82	57.25	+0.05	2.72				101.00	204.30	+0.20	4.00
Worldwide Bond	126.60	134.60	+0.10	6.52				102.00	204.30	+0.20	4.00
Cash Fixed Inv	22.90	23.70	+0.00	0.50	6.34			102.80	112.10	+3.00	6.14
Cash Fixed Inv	118.20	125.40	+0.10	9.17				103.00	205.50	+1.30	8.48
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ, Scotland	110.00	112.40	+0.40	2.42				191.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
0224 633070, Dealing: 0800 833350	110.00	112.00	+0.40	2.39				105.00	215.60	+1.30	0.50
30 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ	107.1	114.00	+0.01	6.80				107.40	214.21	+0.10	2.81
071 374 6801	110.00	112.00	+0.40	2.39				107.40	214.21	+0.10	2.81
Amer Inc Csh	31.01	32.44	+0.40	1.42				107.40	214.21	+0.10	2.81
European	64.16	72.51	+0.03	1.33				107.40	214.21	+0.10	2.81
European Inv	12.03	75.59	+0.06	1.61				107.40	214.21	+0.10	2.81
Exempt	73.20	80.60	+0.04	0.90	5.05			107.40	214.21	+0.10	2.81
Exta Inv	35.95	39.16	+0.09	3.22				107.40	214.21	+0.10	2.81
Fund Inv Europe	52.47	56.14	+0.06	1.14				107.40	214.21	+0.10	2.81
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon, SN1 1EL, Wiltshire, SN15 1JF, Dealing: 0123 610364	110.00	111.00	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
High Inv	320.60	341.40	+0.20	6.02				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
High Inv	178.00	190.00	+0.05	1.20				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
High Yield	54.20	58.40	+0.05	1.26				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Investment	54.20	58.40	+0.05	1.26				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
American Inv	35.22	38.00	+0.10	1.61				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
World Inv	132.10	137.27	+0.14	5.59				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Japan	132.10	139.70	+0.10	5.01				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Small Inv	348.60	360.00	+1.10	0.26				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
BL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD PO Box 126, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 4PN, 081 663 3030	110.00	111.00	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
European Csh	83.84	89.00	+0.15	1.80				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
1992 Euro Sp Csh	64.20	64.54	+0.06	0.60				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
International Inv	68.80	73.18	+0.11	7.36				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
N American Csh	52.11	55.93	+0.01	0.50				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Pacific Growth	68.85	73.62	+0.30	0.81				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
UK Growth Inv	79.27	84.77	+0.15	2.58				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
UK Growth Inv	69.56	74.38	+0.14	2.73				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
UK Income	56.98	60.94	+0.06	0.04				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
BARCLAYS UNICORD Union House, 252 Romilly Rd, London E1, 081 534 5544	110.00	111.00	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Capital Inv	90.87	97.43	+0.34	3.68				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Capital Inv	90.23	102.10	+0.10	1.79				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Extra Inv	90.02	104.40	+0.11	4.70				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
1993 Inv	121.40	134.10	+0.10	8.70				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
GI Inv	51.50	55.41	+0.06	10.07				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Income	390.60	427.40	+0.10	6.79				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
BARING FUND MANAGERS PO Box 156, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 4XQ, 081 658 9002	110.00	111.00	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
American Csh	72.30	76.51	+0.20	0.30				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Amer Stk Csh	83.61	88.97	+0.24	1.10				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Australia	59.02	63.52	+0.11	2.10				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Convertible	45.16	48.29	+0.18	0.50				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Eastern	136.70	147.00	+0.20	1.30				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Equity Income	66.38	70.61	+0.27	7.50				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
European Csh	184.40	195.90	+0.10	2.50				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Euro Stk Csh	143.80	150.40	+0.05	1.60				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Exempt	47.44	50.64	+0.06	1.10				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Growth	47.44	50.64	+0.06	1.10				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Global Growth	84.62	90.45	+0.15	1.80				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Japan	147.50	157.90	+0.14	1.50				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Japan Stk Inv	119.80	127.60	+0.07	1.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Portfolios	99.76	104.00	+0.10	4.24				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
UK Inv	107.50	110.70	+0.10	2.20				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge, SE1, 071 407 5960	110.00	111.00	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
City Fin Inv	52.27	55.13	+0.05	2.85				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
City Fin Inv	110.00	120.50	+0.10	1.50				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Investment Inv	110.00	120.50	+0.10	1.50				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Investor Inv	10.35	10.75	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND 2 Five Star, London EC2Y 5AQ, 071 588 1815	110.00	111.00	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Charities Off Inv	110.00	111.00	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Charities Off Inv	110.00	111.00	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30	0.50
Charities Off Inv	110.00	111.00	+0.00	0.00				105.40	210.30	+1.30</	

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 90.6 (day's range 90.6-90.8).

Forced sales delay property revival

By RODNEY HOBSON

THE only parts of the small business property market to hold up have been those underpinned by government finance, according to an annual report by Cavendish Tate, surveyors and business valuers. Otherwise, 1991 was a year of stagnation. Government bankers and business agents were unable to talk the market into a recovery.

Repossessions and bankruptcies have flooded the market with businesses for sale, either as going concerns or bricks and mortar. The best performer, Cavendish Tate says, has been the private health care industry: nursing homes, residential care homes, homes for the mentally disordered and children's day nurseries. Small shops have been hit hard and are likely to come under still more pressure as big companies extend opening hours at weekends.

The leisure industry is being starved of finance by banks and of bookings by cost-conscious customers. Cavendish Tate says: "Many large and small leisure companies are reaching a point of no return. The hotel industry has suffered from a glut of properties for sale, reducing values to absurdly low levels." The licensed trade has gone through a period of unprecedented turmoil". Cavendish Tate reckons that by the end of the year there might be 10 to 15 per cent fewer pubs in the UK.

"I'd just like to thank you for nothing!"



By PHILIP BARRON

BRITISH company has won orders from Italy for a product made from olives. This is the latest achievement, smacking of coal to Newcastle, of Chalice Foods, founded less than three years ago by Achilles and Anna Achilleos. The company makes own-label pates from green and black olives, has diversified into spreads based on peanuts and is now expanding into the ingredient-supply market, providing olive paste for products such as olive bread and chilled savoury sauces.

Achilles Achilleos is of Greek-Cypriot origin but was born in Britain. He was a chef at the Food for Thought restaurant in Covent Garden in London when he experimented with making pate from top-quality olives.

Mrs Achilleos sold the product to a few health stores and it soon became clear that volume manufacture was justified. A small unit was found in an enterprise centre in Holloway, north London. Startup capital came from Seed Investments II run by Lucius Cary, the entrepreneur, supplemented by a bank loan underwritten through the small firms loan guarantee scheme.

Within a few months the 500 sq ft factory unit became too small and, helped by a further investment from Mr Cary's seed-capital fund, the company moved into a 1,500 sq ft unit in Islington.

Meanwhile, Mrs Achilleos had taught herself to use a computer and oversee the finances. She says:



JOHN MANNING

"We were lucky in finding suitable premises and financial backing at just the right time. We have also benefited from the trend towards more natural foods."

Margins were squeezed recently when a drought in Greece put up the cost of olives, but the company remains profitable. The pate that is being exported to Italy is an added-value product in two varieties: black olives with walnut and capers or green with pimento. A new version with herbs has been put on the British market. Harrods has put the Chalice pate in its hampers since the early Chalice days and the products are now in John Lewis Partnership's Waitrose supermarket and some Tesco stores. Products are also being exported to America. About 70 per cent of Chalice's sales are through health stores and 20 per cent via delicatessens. Improved distribution in the delicatessen industry is leading to bigger sales in that sector and the trend has also been reinforced by the trade's introduction of a "Deli-line" (0285-720623), which helps consumers to find the stockists of products that come to their attention. The company's priorities for the next few years are to establish the market in this country and develop further overseas. Eventually, production may be moved to the source of the olives: Greece.

BRIEFINGS

The City of London and Inner London TEC, or CILNTEC, which is the last training and enterprise council to become operational, has decided to make a special effort to help small businesses (Derek Harris writes). CILNTEC, launched this month, brings the number of TECs in England and Wales to 82. CILNTEC has a number of free business health checks on offer to small companies in its area, which covers both Hackney and Islington in addition to the City.

The health check, aimed particularly at helping businesses beset with recession problems, is being conducted by Stoy Hayward, the consultant. Philip Morgan, the director for enterprise at CILNTEC, said: "This is an area of service businesses and small manufacturers and many are in a situation where they have had to scale down operations, perhaps dropping from a staff of 20 to typically four or five. Now they are trying to work out what to do next, such as if they should try to anticipate an economic upturn."

The TEC can help with counselling and specialised advice. CILNTEC is also assessing how best to use money from the enterprise allowance scheme to help young businesses. A telephone service also offers information and advice, including concerning the wider European market.

□ More details from CILNTEC on 071-324 2424 or at 80 Great Eastern Street, London, EC2A 3DP.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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Chalice takes olives to Italy

By PHILIP BARRON

"We were lucky in finding suitable premises and financial backing at just the right time. We have also benefited from the trend towards more natural foods."

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Pull up to the battery point

Eerily quiet electric cars are due soon in Britain, reports Vaughan Freeman

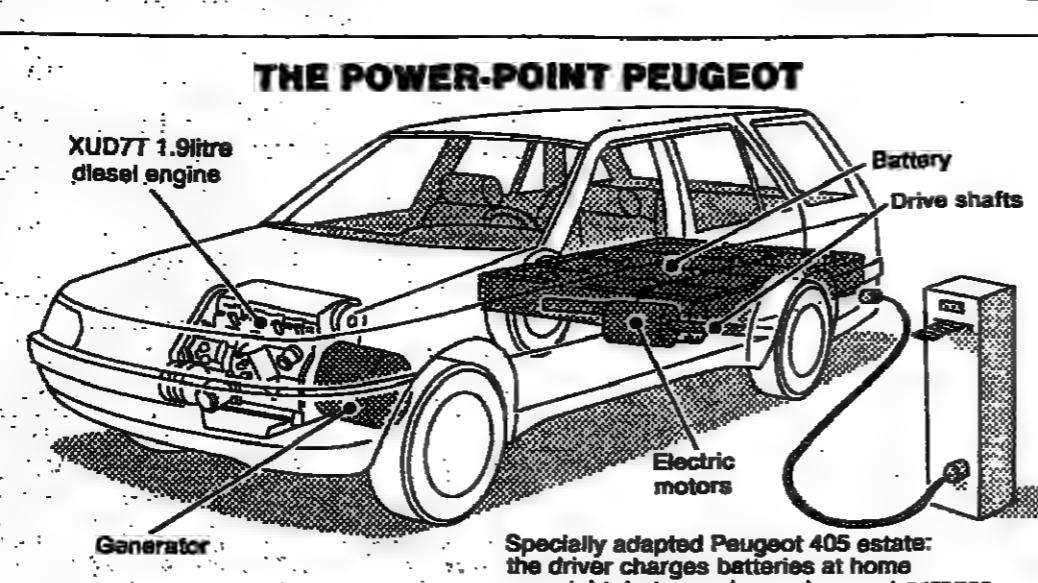
The ticking clock may be an annoyance in a whispering Rolls-Royce, but in the battery cars about to arrive in Britain such a noise would be a crashing intrusion. Cruising in absolute silence, these vehicles will be a smog-plagued pedestrian's dream, emitting no exhaust at all.

These eerily silent machines are likely to become a common sight as they pull in to garage forecourts. The driver will uncoil a flex cord from the boot and plug in to an industrial-size charger for a battery top-up.

Electric versions of the Peugeot 106 and Citroën AX - using present body shapes, will be here by 1995, the French manufacturers announced this week. The PSA Peugeot-Citroën group has also developed a "hybrid" Peugeot 405 estate. This uses two electric motors for exhaust-free running plus a small diesel engine which recharges batteries and helps boost motorway cruising speeds.

An experiment in on-tap roadside refuelling for such vehicles starts next year when PSA begins a pilot project in conjunction with the French city of La Rochelle and Électricité de France, the French power generator.

Up to 300 La Rochelle motorists will be equipped with electric-powered versions of the Peugeot



THE POWER-POINT PEUGEOT

Specially adapted Peugeot 405 estate: the driver charges batteries at home overnight, but can also recharge at garages

106 or the Citroën AX. Recharging posts will be dotted around the city so the battery cars will run without the fear that plagues the idea of battery-powered vehicles: grinding to a halt on a flat battery without the quick fix of a can of petrol.

New technology means that such cars can use nickel-cadmium batteries, which last ten years, compared with the three years of lead-acid batteries used in milk floats.

At selected points, the La Rochelle cars will be able to charge up in ten minutes with enough battery power to travel about 12.4 miles, allowing drivers to get home for a full overnight charge. More efficient chargers will cut the time

to five minutes. The batteries, however, are expected to add more than £2,000 to the vehicle price.

Running costs should be low. A full overnight charge will give 125 miles of motoring, which will add an estimated £1.50 to the electricity bill. Petrol for a similar distance would cost £6.

The race to develop the first effective battery car is caused as much by economic realities as environmental idealism. Car emissions account for 16 per cent of all acid rain and 10 per cent of carbon dioxide that contributes to the greenhouse effect.

Jacques Calvet, the PSA chairman, says: "We are determined to preserve our planet's fragile eco-

system. At stake is nothing less than our right to move about freely without polluting. To win, we must identify, analyse, quantify and reduce or eliminate all types of pollution caused by the planet's rapidly growing road traffic."

If this is not done, manufacturers face bankruptcy. California, America's biggest car market, is preparing legislation requiring that by 2003, 2 per cent of all new cars sold there must emit no exhaust. The incentive for manufacturers to develop such vehicles is that if they do not meet the zero emission target, they will not be permitted to sell any vehicles in the state. Since 1980, California has set the pace on lead-

SMOG ALERT

Some of Europe's biggest cities suffer record traffic-fume pollution. In Britain, the environment department is considering issuing smog warnings. Not only Britain is affected. Florence has been closed to private cars by day this month.

The daily ban, from 9.30am to 5pm, is the most drastic of anti-pollution measures by several Italian cities, including a system of allowing only cars with odd-numbered plates to enter one day and those with even numbers the next. One Roman found a way around this: he drove with an odd-numbered plate on the front of his car and an even-numbered one on the back.

NISSAN has announced its re-launch into the British market by offering a 24-hour emergency cover on its 1992 models. Nissan Assist, run with the RAC, provides for every emergency, including lost keys and breakdown recovery.

The service is available from the date of purchase for a year and thereafter at preferential rates. As Nissan steadily recovers from its "lost year" of legal wrangling with Nissan UK, its former independent distributor, the package is intended as a competitive offer to attract potential buyers back to the

ROADWISE
Nissan presents its new face

them) and that wipers have their full rubber length to clean the screen. Replacements are cheap and some motor shops sell replacement light bulb packs containing different sizes.

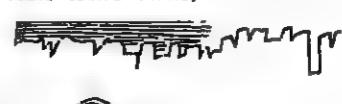
New-look Renaults

RENAULT has given its ageing 25 range a facelift by offering two special edition models. They will have black leather upholstery, electronic four-speed gearboxes, power steering, electric sunroofs, alloy wheels and, on the top model, anti-lock brakes.

The package has been devised to slot into the £19,250 and £19,950 engine tax threshold to attract business people. The 120 bhp 25 TXE Executive is £16,995 and the 140bhp TXI £19,250.

Style lesson

TOM Matano, Mazda's chief designer in the US, says he takes new designers to lingerie shows to study design because he believes cars must also have a good rear end. Interviewed by America's Automotive News, Mr Matano



Smith

Prices cut

SAO Penza, the little-known South African manufacturer, is building its sales by aggressive pricing this year, cutting the cost of some models by an average of £800. Three versions of the 1.3-litre models will be under £7,000 and come with six months' road tax, two years' unlimited mileage warranty cover, two years' free RAC membership and six-year anti-corrosion cover.

Le RAC

SKI enthusiasts visiting the Winter Olympics in France next month will see the familiar faces of British RAC and AA patrolmen providing an emergency service. Both organisations are taking easily identifiable vehicles, in their national colours, so that British tourists among the expected million visitors to Albertville can spot help if they find themselves stranded.

Rust-buster

DAIHATSU has extended its warranty against surface rust, paint and plating defects by one to three years on all new vehicles. The new cover is added to the current three-year unlimited mileage warranty and six-year anti-corrosion cover.

Winter warmer

SEE and be seen is the message during the darkest weeks of the winter. Lights and wipers are the most important equipment to be checked and drivers should ensure that all lights work, washer bottles are full (with a little detergent in

says American men find the "curve of hip, thigh and leg" the most sexy. Cars, like women, need a good rear three-quarter view, he says. If he gave designers a pile of documents they would forget the lesson, but a lingerie show seems to do the trick.

Loved by the Volk

VOLKSWAGEN was Europe's top car maker last year. Its West European sales rose by 0.4 per cent to a record 13.53 million. The increase was because of the rapid pace of unification of West and East Germany, which showed growth of 28 per cent in sales.

Second biggest manufacturer was Fiat followed by General Motors (including Vauxhall), Peugeot-Citroën, Ford, Renault and Mercedes-Benz.

The annoying sound of Saab

SAAB'S new 9000 CS range seems to suffer from a rumble similar to that of old record turntables. Kevin Evans writes

From the moment the four-cylinder engine starts, a low vibration trembles up the feet through the legs and into the torso.

The sensation could be pleasant, except that there is no way to turn it off. I suspect that the range will have to take smoother six-cylinder engines. If the engineers are to get rid of the rumble.

Now that Saab is a General Motors company, there seems

little doubt that the executive cars, costing between £18,750 and £30,000, will soon share the V6 engines from Ellesmere Port, Merseyside.

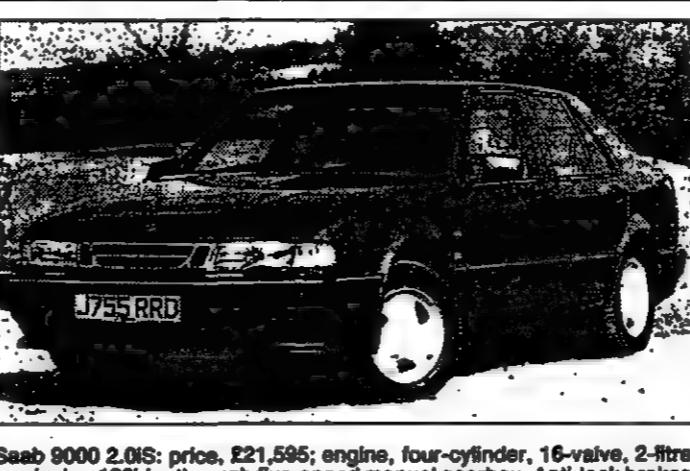
The CS 1.7 tested scored well on interior cabin refinement; its leather passenger seats are surrounded by "smile look" fabrics and the walnut-surround dashboard is clear. A cavernous boot will swallow the biggest holiday luggage load.

On a motorway, the Saab CS is in its element, carrying driver and passengers in great comfort — apart from that rumble.

and safety, is pure Saab. The car is also wonderfully reassuring. Saabs are renowned for safety and there is a tremendous feeling of solidity about the CS and its firm-closing chunky doors.

Ride and handling are also impressive. Fat tyres on 15in wheels and updated suspension prevent the sort of body roll that afflicts some executive cars. But those tyres and the stern ride contribute to the irritating noise and vibration.

On a motorway, the Saab CS is in its element, carrying driver and passengers in great comfort — apart from that rumble.



Saab 9000 CS: price, £21,595; engine, four-cylinder, 16-valve, 2-litre; producing 130bhp through five-speed manual gearbox. Anti-lock brakes standard. Performance, 0 to 60mph in 10.5 seconds; top speed 118mph; fuel consumption 24.4mpg in town driving (government figures)

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Crossillion holds best credentials of Wragg's team

WORD from Newmarket suggests that Geoffrey Wragg is hopeful of landing a double at Southwell today with Dorset Duke and Crossillion, who will both be ridden by Michael Hills.

While I can give Crossillion a fine chance of winning the Crab Handicap, even with 9st 1lb to carry, I doubt whether Dorset Duke will be able to give so much weight away to Crossillion's entry in the Shark Handicap.

Supporting either of Wragg's fancied runners is to bank on them reproducing their good form on Lingfield's Equitrack surface on Southwell's Fibresand, which is a totally different surface. Results from the two all-weather courses have shown that not all horses are adaptable.

If Crossillion can come to terms with the change in surface, he will be hard to beat.

Frost tightens grip

THE meetings at Wincanton and Uttoxeter scheduled for today were abandoned yesterday because of frost, leaving Southwell's all-weather fixture as the sole survivor.

Two of tomorrow's cards are also threatened. Cheltenham will inspect at 11.30am today but Edward Gillespie, the course's general manager, described prospects as "bleak", adding: "The fore-

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

He excelled at Lingfield in December when accounting for Rapporteur and Princess Roxanne, who both have fine records on track.

Should Crossillion not find Fibresand to his liking will he be vulnerable to the late challenge of the Reg Akhurst-trained Lara's Baby, twice a winner in the Nottinghamshire Stakes.

In contrast to Crossillion, Dorset Duke has at least raced on Fibresand even though his recent wins have been gained at Lingfield. In December he was runner-up to Super Benz, beaten four lengths.

But I feel he will need to do better than that if he is to beat the Jeremy Glover-trained

Doublab's Image, who has already won twice on the track this year and is still by no means harshly handicapped.

Silver Samurai, who showed improved form when winning by 12 lengths a fortnight ago, is taken to keep up the good work by landing the Hallibut Claiming Stakes over the same course and distance.

David Chapman, the successful trainer from Stillington in Yorkshire, has posed problems for backers by declaring both Tigani and Welsy Lad for the Oyster Claiming Stakes.

At his best Tigani, who joined the stable in a £12,000 transaction last autumn, would have no trouble winning this. He was runner-up to Dayjur in the Temple Stakes at Sandown two years ago but has since gone into a sharp decline. I prefer Southwell specialist Welsy Lad.

On YVA, from Robert Williams' Newmarket yard, is mapped to win the Lobsier Handicap after winning well over the same course and distance a week ago. The 7lb penalty for that success is partly offset by the 5lb allowance of the accomplished apprentice Carl Hodgson.

On the altered terms Cockack Noir, the bottom weight, looks the probable danger having finished fourth on that occasion.

Blinded first time SOUTHWELL: 1.55 Don't Mow.

cast would have to be wrong for there to be any chance of racing."

Racing at Doncaster will be decided by a 10am inspection today but the course was still frozen yesterday.

Of the two remaining meetings, Ayr report no problems with a good going forecast, while Lingfield's all-weather fixture is also expected to go ahead as planned.

Blinded first time SOUTHWELL: 1.55 Don't Mow.

Newton Abbot

Going: good to soft

1.20 (2m 12f) 1. Sherry Whinney (P. Smith) 7-1. 2. Mr. Lion (G. Welsy Lad) 7-1. 3. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 4. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 5. Dancing Pudding (P. Smith) 7-1. 6. Mr. Gipper (M. Hills) 7-1. 7. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 8. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 9. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 10. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 11. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 12. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 13. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 14. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 15. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 16. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 17. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 18. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 19. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 20. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 21. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 22. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 23. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 24. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 25. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 26. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 27. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 28. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 29. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 30. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 31. 7th Heaven (P. Smith) 7-1. 32. 7th Heaven (P. 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England's latecomer keen to play cricket after four months off

Botham admits he may not play a role in Tests

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN NEW PLYMOUTH

FOR the first time in a career famous for its sense of timing, Ian Botham has turned up when the party is already over. He joined the England team here yesterday, 24 hours after they had triumphed over long odds in a style which was once his patented trademark.

When the remarkable Christchurch Test match began last Saturday, Botham was giving his penultimate pantomime performance, slaying giants in Bournemouth. When the Test ended in improbable drama on Wednesday evening, Phil Tufnell brilliantly playing Botham's old part, he was in mid-air somewhere over Auckland. It is unlike Botham, even in pantomime mode, to get his lines so horribly wrong.

In the course of the past few days, Botham's prospects of playing his 100th Test match this winter have receded to a long shot. But last night, he showed neither remorse at missing out nor anxiety at what is to come. With his back to the Tasman Sea and a glass of Chardonnay in his hand, he was as relaxed, cheerful and lucid as I have seen him in years.

Botham was due to begin his tour today in the matchless setting of Pukekura Park, to my mind the world's most beautiful ground. He is well

aware it could be his only first-class match of the trip.

"I don't expect a winning side to be changed," he said. "If we are realistic, Graham Gooch's plans for me were more in the World Cup than the Tests. I hope they were, anyway, because it's a long way to come to carry the drinks all tour."

It remains debatable whether Botham should have been accommodated within this trip on his own terms. It remains a matter of conjecture quite what effect he will have on the so far vibrant team spirit. But now that he is among us, the aura of the man is plainly undiminished.

His picture was on the front page of the Taraki daily newspaper today, in a juxtaposition with a story claiming that the local volcano, long thought dormant, may now erupt again. Botham's ambitions are comparable.

It is five years since he made an England tour and he confessed: "There were periods in that time when I never wanted to do another one. It took me longer than I imagined to come to terms with the fact that I could not bowl as I once did, that batsmen didn't hop around against me. That was the hardest thing of all."

"But I have now settled on a way of bowling appropriate to my age and I still feel I am bating as well as anyone. I am very enthusiastic, make no mistake. Once you lose the

appetite for international cricket, you should pack the game in. I certainly will, anyway."

Botham has been keeping fit by training with the Bournemouth football team, but he admits that yesterday's net practice was his first acquaintance with bat and ball after a four-month break.

"The only bowling I have done is the tenpin variety with my kids. I have never been a great one for nets in the winter and I am too old to change now. My body has taken quite a pounding over the years — a lot of it self-inflicted, I agree."

Never a man afraid to put his money where his mouth is, Botham has backed England for the World Cup at the ridiculously generous odds of 8-1. He is already anticipating the celebration.

On current form we should be joint-favourites with Australia," he said. "I know we have missed out in the past, but maybe this is the first time we have had the right type of team. I believe one-day sides are made up of all-rounders, and in previous World Cups we have expected our Test team to do the job."

Despite his engaging mood of bonhomie, Botham is a wary man these days. On his last tour, to Australia in 1986-7, he hid himself away in his hotel room. The Bat Cave, as he called it, was banned to all but a few trusted friends, a sanctuary from real or imagined fears of ups and scandal-mongering.

He does not rule out using the cave again. "I don't think I shall be staying far from my hotel room unless it is into the manager's room," he said.

His morning practice had, he said, brought back memories of a previous visit to this west coast town, as a 22-year-old on his first overseas tour. "I was due for the match off but Chris Old broke down on his practice run-up and I had to go out and field."

The end of the game was no better. Geoffrey Boycott, who was our captain, had made no runs again and insisted that I bowled to him in the nets at six o'clock, when we had a flight to catch at 6.30. I remember getting on that plane dripping wet."

Martin Crowe, once a Somersett colleague of Botham's, was similarly, if only mentally, uncomfortable when he boarded a plane from Christchurch on Wednesday night, hours after taking the blame for the shot which finally lost his New Zealand side the first Test.

Crowe's nighmarish day had an appropriate end. He dropped off to sleep on the flight to his home town of Wellington and awoke only when the landing announcements were underway. To his dismay, Crowe found that Wellington had been fog-bound and he was back in the city he had been so anxious to leave.

Photograph, page 36

S African schedule due today

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN ADELAIDE

IN LESS than four weeks' time the teams will have assembled in Sydney for the World Cup, but first Australia have some unfinished business with India to attend to, starting with the fourth Test match here tomorrow.

The cricket writer is never more aware of having been dealt a pretty good hand than when he arrives at the Adelaide Oval, one of the loveliest open air theatres in the sporting world. Nobody, mercifully, has been allowed to encase it in concrete. This will be the fifth Test match to be played on the ground, and the photographs of the fifth of them, in 1902, taken from one of the cathedral spires, show how extraordinarily little it has changed.

Against England a year ago, Mark Waugh played an innings of 138 which complemented to perfection the setting. It was his first in Test cricket. Now, for the first time, he may be wondering how he did it. In his last seven knocks for Australia, four in Tests and three in one-day internationals, he has totalled no more than 88 runs.

With good enough reason, Australia will start as favourites for the World Cup, but they are further than they would like to be from settling on the side that will give them their best chance of winning it.

They are in some danger, I think, of being thrown off course by the conflicting de-

mands of Test cricket and the one-day game, which, in Ian Chappell's opinion, have about as much in common as his own golf and Jack Nicklaus'.

Of Australia's likely XI tomorrow, Mark Taylor, Merv Hughes and Shane Warne will almost certainly be spectators at the World Cup as, indeed, might Mark Waugh.

One of the most enjoyable Test matches I have seen was between Australia and India at Adelaide, played as it happens, during a time of schism.

Left with a largely untried army — most of those who had already been in the trenches were then mercenaries, appearing for Packer — Australia still managed to set a full Indian side 493 to win. With Jeff Thomson unable to bowl because of injury, they got to within 48 of their target.

Now, 14 years on, the Indians are the same mercifully gifted cricketers that they were then. After being badly beaten in the first two Tests of the present series, they were prevented from winning the third only by Rainy Shastri, whose double hundred and rehabilitation as a bowler had most to do with their so-nearly turning the tables in Sydney, has since torn ligaments in a knee and will miss the last two Tests.

India's counterpart to Mark Waugh — another lovely batsman waiting for the

magic to return to his game — is their captain, Mohammad Azharuddin. Despite a rare gift for making centuries against England, Azharuddin has passed 35 only once in 19 innings on this tour, owing partly, I gather, to too many reckless strokes. But there is, as a rule, nowhere like Adelaide for running into form, and for the moment, anyway, the weather is as anyone could ask for. The pitch, being newly laid, is a less known quantity.

The word being most widely used to account for the recent success of Alan Border and his side, is "professional". They take pride in playing a tight percentage game, and of practising unsparsingly, much in the way that England aim to do.

Whether it gives them the best chance of fulfilling their true potential, I am not sure. For that to happen they might need to be more prepared, to use a favourite Australian phrase, to "give it a go". Whatever the truth of that, though, it will be surprising if, over the next few days, Australia are as anything like as hard-pressed as they were in Sydney.

SCORER: Australia 180 for 7 (L Hunter 47), New Zealand 181 for 7 (K Gurn 48). New Zealand won by three wickets.

□ England's women have qualified to meet Australia in tomorrow's final of the Shell Rosebowl triangular one-day series at Christchurch.

NEW ZEALAND: beat Australia, the World Cup holders, by three wickets yesterday to finish level on points with England, but failed to match the required scoring rate despite 57 off 70 balls from Debbie Hobley.

AUSTRALIA: from A R Border (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hobbs, C M Whiteman, P R Redden.

INDIA: from: M Azharuddin (captain), D K Padukone, N Srinivasan, S M Venkateswaran, S R Tendulkar, M Prakash, Karp Dev, C S Pandya, S L V Ravi, J Srinath, K Anre, S Banerjee.

FRANCE: from: Alpe d'Huez (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hobbs, C M Whiteman, P R Redden.

SWITZERLAND: from: Klostertal (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hobbs, C M Whiteman, P R Redden.

ITALY: from: Livinga (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hobbs, C M Whiteman, P R Redden.

GERMANY: from: Berchtesgaden (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hobbs, C M Whiteman, P R Redden.

ENGLAND: from: Livinga (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hobbs, C M Whiteman, P R Redden.

SPAIN: from: Alpe d'Huez (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hobbs, C M Whiteman, P R Redden.

SCOTLAND: from: Alpe d'Huez (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hobbs, C M Whiteman, P R Redden.

WALES: from: Alpe d'Huez (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hobbs, C M Whiteman, P R Redden.

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WALES: from: Alpe d'Huez (captain), G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, M E Moseley, D G Pratt, A Hob

THE TIMES SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1992

Central defender ruled out for six weeks

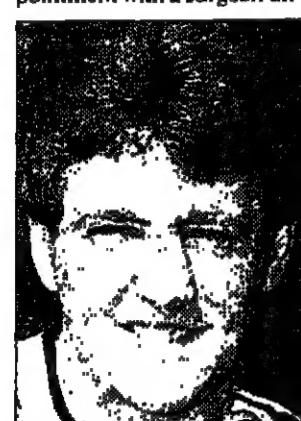
Injury to Bruce deals blow to United's hopes

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AS LEEDS United lost Lee Chapman for some six weeks, so Manchester United now expect to be without Steve Bruce for the same amount of time. It would appear that the fortunes of the two clubs at the top of the first division have thus been neatly balanced.

Bruce revealed on Wednesday night that for a couple of months he has been carrying the injury to which he eventually succumbed.

He imagined that he could play his way through the pain barrier and postpone his appointment with a surgeon un-



Bruce: playing in pain

Freeze takes early toll on weekend fixtures

FOOTBALL and rugby union face a mounting backlog of fixtures as several of tomorrow's FA Cup fourth-round ties and the majority of the Pilkington Cup programme are in danger of being frozen off (Louise Taylor writes).

Although no FA Cup matches have been postponed, Bristol Rovers said yesterday that with the temperature on their pitch at Tiverton Park, Bath, as low as 8°F, there was "very little chance of the tie with Liverpool going ahead". So little that the match has been pro-

FIRST DIVISION

LEADING POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	25	18	7	2	46	19	55
Leeds Utd	26	14	11	1	49	21	53
Everton	25	12	8	5	35	22	44
Man City	26	12	8	6	35	28	44
Sheff Wed	25	12	7	6	39	30	43
Aston Villa	26	11	4	11	34	31	37
Arsenal	24	9	8	7	40	28	35

til the end of the season. He realised a month ago that his optimism might be misplaced. One uncharacteristically poor performance, during which United conceded three goals at Oldham Athletic on Boxing day, was soon followed by another, when they let in four at home to Queen's Park Rangers.

Full recognition occurred during the draw at Notts County on Saturday. Once he had been withdrawn, Bruce accepted that he would have to undergo a hernia operation to repair the damage which had been exacerbated through the heavy demands of the domestic programme.

But when he learned, three hours before kick-off, that Paul Parker had influenza and would be unavailable against Aston Villa, Bruce volunteered to make one more appearance, his 51st in a row.

Though he visibly winced

in pain on several occasions, bravely he completed the game. Claiming he has been a rapid healer in the past, Bruce intends to return sooner than scheduled, but Alex Ferguson is prepared to lose his vice-captain for ten fixtures.

That will probably include both legs of the Rumbelows Cup semi-final against either Middlesbrough or Peterborough. Not that United's manager is short of replacements. Unlike Howard Wilkinson, who has no one capable of filling the same role as Chapman, Ferguson can call on a couple of experienced internationals to act as Gary Pallister's partner — either Mal Donaghy, the versatile Northern Irishman, or Parker, one of England's tightest markers.

Both have also played at full back, where the other choices include Clayton Blackmore, Mike Phelan, Lee Martin and even Lee Sharpe, who started his career at Old Trafford there. The absence of Bruce therefore should not be as consequential as that of Chapman, even if it is as extensive.

But United will miss his constructive contribution. With the exception, perhaps, of Mark Wright, of Liverpool and England, no other central defender is as adept at controlling the ball under pressure (in Bruce's case, invariably on the chest) and playing it calmly and deliberately to a colleague in space.

Bryan Robson was another to show signs of discomfort against Villa. In spite of aggravating his calf strain, he refused to be substituted and may be unavailable for the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Southampton on Monday.

Although United's competitive instincts will demand otherwise, defeat at The Dell would conveniently lighten their schedule.

The prospect is conceivable, even though Southampton are anchored to the bottom of the first division. They have competed in 11 Cup ties so far this season and lost only once.

Though he visibly winced



Back in the swing: Ian Botham warms up in the New Plymouth nets yesterday after joining the England cricketers in New Zealand. Report, page 34

Fuller Figure Styles

In Sizes
12-40

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Mansell may race without spare tyre

BY JOHN BLUNSDEN

NIGEL Mansell will return to England next week from his new home in Florida before beginning five days of testing for the Williams team in Portugal. Yesterday, Frank Williams said he was hoping to see a new, slimline Mansell, for at 80kg (12st 8lb) he was the heaviest of all the Formula One drivers last season.

"I would like to see him shed about five kilos," Williams said. "It's an attainable target and it would make him even quicker, fitter and, if you like, hungrier."

In Mansell's belief he has the strongest driving partnership in Formula One.

Although Mansell will continue to have priority use of the team's spare car, in all other respects they have equal status. The only rule for 1992

is that whoever has the better chance of the championship late in the season must be supported by his team-colleague, whichever way it goes.

For Williams, McLaren remains the biggest obstacle to the championship. "Ron Dennis has my deepest admiration and he thoroughly deserves his four double championships, but they are still bearable," he contended.

He also forecasts increasing opposition from other quarters. "In most respects, Ferrari are extremely well managed and can be a threat," he said. "Their main problem last year was building too conservative a car."

"And don't underestimate the power of Benetton's Ford V8 engine. Martin Brundle was very quick indeed over a full race distance in a recent test."

Saunders pays for Irish failure

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ROB Saunders, the scrum half who flashed like a meteor across Ireland's rugby skies during 1991, fell to earth yesterday. Saunders, the London Irishman who won ten successive caps last year and an eleventh against Wales last weekend, was one of three players dropped when the team to play England at Twickenham on Friday was named.

Thus Ralph Keyes, saviour of a nation when he returned to international rugby so effectively during the World Cup, retains his place at stand-off half and Philip Matthews, whose leadership was called into question against the Welsh, retains the captaincy.

Saunders captained Ireland upon his debut against France less than a year ago, but he surrendered that to Matthews when Ireland toured Namibia during the summer. Now his place has gone too, though he put a brave face on it yesterday. "I knew there were going to be changes after a performance like that and they were bound

to look closely at my role," he said. "When things go wrong they must look at the man in the decision-making positions and if you accept a decision-making job you must accept the consequences when things go badly."

After 52 caps, Lenihan, a Bristol 'Lion' in 1983 and 1989, may not be seen on the international stage again. Aged 32, his has been an

international career.

Those named in the B team to play England B at Richmond on January 31 will be aware of the possibility of promotion, should the senior side fail at Twickenham.

IRELAND: J. Stephen (London Irish), R. Keyes (London Irish), B. Mullin (Blackrock College), D. Curtis (London Irish), S. Geoghegan (London Irish), R. Keays (Cork Constitution), F. Alcock (London Irish), P. Popplewell (London Irish), S. Scott (Salford), D. Fitzgerald (St. L. S. College), P. Matthews (London Irish), C. O'Gorman (London Irish), M. French (Blackrock College), M. Fitzpatrick (Shenfield), B. Robinson (Ballymena), R. Quinn (London Irish), T. Kingdon (Dulwich), G. L. Williams (London Irish), N. M. Manton (London Irish).

IRELAND B: C. Wilkinson (Maccabi R. C., Dublin), M. Ridge (Blackrock College), D. Corcoran (London Irish), P. O'Farrell (London Irish), P. O'Farrell (London Irish), D. Fitzgerald (St. L. S. College), P. Matthews (London Irish), C. O'Gorman (London Irish), M. French (Blackrock College), M. Fitzpatrick (Shenfield), B. Robinson (Ballymena), T. Coughlin (London Irish), D. McNamee (Ballymena), P. Lawlor (Ballymena), T. Coughlin (London Irish), G. Murphy (London Irish), T. Coughlin (London Irish), D. McNamee (Ballymena), P. Lawlor (Ballymena), T. Coughlin (London Irish), G. Murphy (London Irish).

SAUNDERS: Out of favour

Stemmle uses courage to conquer the fears

BY DAVID POWELL

IN THE super league of courage, the names stand out: Niklaus Lauda, Barry Sheene, Bob Champion. Who next? Brian Stemmle has just won promotion.

Three years ago, Stemmle lay unconscious for five days in an Innsbruck hospital, his high-speed fall in a World Cup downhill ski race depositing him at death's door. He had broken his pelvis and his extensive internal injuries threatened his life. He was in hospital for three months.

Tomorrow, Stemmle will look down the Lauberhorn mountain in Wengen, Swit-

zerland, and see the piste on which Gernot Reinstadler, an Austrian, aged 20, crashed and died a year ago. Then he will ski down it as fast as he can, hopefully to the bottom. In a World Cup race, Stemmle is back, not simply racing but racing to win. He is, remarkably, Canada's best hope for a medal in the Olympic downhill a fortnight on Sunday.

Reinstadler's accident was so similar to mine, it's real frightening, when you are inspecting that part of the course it runs through your mind," Stemmle said yesterday. Not that he will be frightened away. He has

come too far. In Garmisch-Partenkirchen a fortnight ago, he was fourth in a World Cup downhill, only one place lower than his best before the accident.

Like Reinstadler, Stemmle lost his life and became a victim of the safety net. He accuses the Kitzbuhel ski club, which staged the race on its Hahnenkamm mountain, of failing to take reasonable safety measures and is suing. The pain when he regained consciousness was, he said, "unbearable".

It was five months before he walked and a year before it occurred to him that, yes, he did want to ski again. From

Barrette, a prediction for Stemmle: "top five".

Stemmle, aged 25, is not sure that he will not repeat his near-fatal error. He has watched the video but cannot identify the mistake. Does he not know what went wrong? "Not really, but if does not worry me, I do not take as many risks as I did in training and I am more methodical in my approach."

After winning this season's World Cup downhill in Val d'Isere, A.J. Kirt said that "the life on the edge" was the only way to live. The Olympic piste at Val d'Isere favours the technical skiers. From

Barrette, a prediction for Stemmle: "top five".

Stemmle's comeback required "Lauda-like steel". First time in the starting gate I was nervous and somewhat unsure," he said. "but my coach said: 'This is what you do best, go down and do it.' And he could get better, perhaps at the Olympics. "Hopefully, everything will work out — it would be great to get a medal," he said. "It would look good pinned next to his badge of courage."

Short-term signings are ruled out

BY RICHARD STREETON

DURHAM, Essex, Worcestershire and Yorkshire learned yesterday that they will not be allowed to sign short-term replacements for their Australian players if they are selected for a Test tour to Sri Lanka next August and September.

The Test and County Cricket Board's registration committee has rejected requests that special dispensation be granted if Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Tom Moody and Craig McDermott have to miss the final six weeks of the season.

By coincidence, several other counties will be without their overseas players at the end of the summer if the proposed short tour by South Africa to West Indies takes place in April.

Alan Donald, Warwickshire's South African fast bowler, and several West Indians, including Dennis Silk, the registration committee chairman, said that in a split-tour summer they could be inundated with requests for short-term signings and injuries could also lead to them.

The whole thrust of our thinking, when possible, is to get more English players into our cricket," he said. "Counties can always blood a promising player who normally is kept out of the side."

Phil Robinson, the Yorkshire batsman who declined to sign a contract offered by the county, failed in a request to the committee to be reclassified as a "non-contester" registration.

Waugh's struggle, 24

Yorkshire reject Boycott honour

BY MARTIN SEARCY

YORKSHIRE have refused to make Geoff Boycott their former opening batsman an honorary life member alongside other luminaries such as Brian Close, Fred Trueman, Willie Watson, Vic Wilson, Ellis Robinson and Bob Appleyard.

Yesterday, Appleyard, a committee member for Bradford, said: "It took me 30 years to be given the honour, so there's plenty of time for Geoff. I would like to see him taking a more active role by accepting the offer to serve on the cricket committee which was made two years ago and remains open."

Boycott did not endear

himself to a large number of Yorkshire's committee with some scathing remarks in a book last year. His comments clearly still rankle.

One member said yesterday: "Geoff is unlikely to take kindly to what he will see as a snub and is even less likely to serve on the cricket committee now."

Yorkshire hope there will not be a serious upheaval with membership and sponsorship enjoying a dramatic increase on the back of the county's fine overseas signings.

Craig McDermott, the Australian fast bowler,

Adelaide Test, page 34